



## *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

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

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **AGENDA - REGULAR MEETING** Tuesday, May 25, 2021

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

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|-------------------|--|
| <b>12:00 p.m.</b> | <b>1. Call to Order</b>  |
| <b>12:02 p.m.</b> | <b>2. Agenda Approval</b>  |
| <b>12:05 p.m.</b> | <b>3. Consent Agenda Items:</b> Any of the following items may be removed for discussion from the consent agenda at the request of any Board member or citizen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of April 26, 2021 Minutes</li><li>• Consideration of Operating Expenses</li><li>• Consideration of Non-Operating Expenses</li></ul>   |
| <b>12:10 p.m.</b> | <b>4. Legal and Legislative Matters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to Taylor Exchange Agreement</li></ul>  |
| <b>12:25 p.m.</b> | <b>5. Presentation by Jason Ullmann, Colorado Division of Water Resources, on Taylor Spreadsheet Updates</b>   |
| <b>1:05 p.m.</b>  | <b>6. General Manager and Committee Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Treasurer's Report</li><li>• Watershed Management Planning Committee</li><li>• Grant Committee</li><li>• Education &amp; Outreach Update</li><li>• Taylor Local User's Group Update<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ May 7 Meeting Summary</li></ul></li><li>• Basin Water Supply Information May 2021<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Taylor Park Reservoir Operations</li><li>○ Aspinall Unit Operations</li><li>○ Drought Conditions</li></ul></li></ul> |

- Streamflows
- Scientific Endeavors
- Long Lake Stakeholders Work Group Update
- Gunnison Basin Roundtable
- Gunnison River Festival Update
- Wet Meadows Update

**2:15 p.m. 7. Upper Gunnison District Demand Management Statement of Understanding Update**

**2:25 p.m. 8. Miscellaneous Matters**

- Gunnison Energy Production - Solar Panels
- Current Gunnison River Spreadsheet
- Gunnison RV Dump Improvements Details
- Newspapers and Other Water Articles

**2:30 p.m. 9. Citizens Comments**

**2:35 p.m. 10. Future Meetings**

**2:40 p.m. 11. Summary of Meeting Action Items**

**2:45 p.m. 12. Adjournment**

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

# **AGENDA ITEM 3**

**Consent Agenda Items**

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 26, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the District offices, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B, Gunnison, CO, 81230.

Board members present: Rosemary Carroll (via Zoom video/teleconferencing), Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard (via Zoom video/teleconferencing), Stacy McPhail, Bill Nesbitt, John Perusek, Don Sabrowski and Andy Spann.

Board members absent: Julie Nania and Michelle Pierce

Also present:

Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
William Dujardin, Mayor Pro-Tem, Crested Butte Town Council  
Emily Halvorson, Colorado Department of Law  
Jesse Kruthaupt, Trout Unlimited  
John McClow, General Counsel  
Dan Omasta, Colorado Trout Unlimited  
Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist  
Jill Steele, Accountant/Office Manager  
Sue Uerling, Administrative Assistant

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Vice President Stacy McPhail called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Andy Spann seconded approval of the agenda as circulated. The motion carried.**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Director Joellen Fonken moved and Director Bill Nesbitt seconded approval of the consent agenda items. The motion carried.**



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

General Counsel John McCloy reported that water bills introduced to date have been about matters that don't affect the District. He said that the state legislature may go into recess and come back later in the year as they have not decided how they are going to conclude the session. Bill asked if the District should align with the Cattlemen's Association or Gunnison Stockgrowers Association in opposition to Ballot Initiative 16 since he believes it would have significant, extremely negative impacts on Colorado ranchers and the veterinarians. Vice President McPhail said everyone she has been in contact with is adamantly opposed to the initiative and she encouraged Board members to please talk to people who are not familiar with the initiative to become informed.

#### **5. PRESENTATION BY DAN OMASTA, CO TROUT UNLIMITED, ON WMP RECREATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND FOREST AND WATERSHED HEALTH**

Dan Omasta, grassroots coordinator of Colorado Trout Unlimited, is under contract with the District to complete a Recreational Assessment for the District. He is also serving as the District's WMP Coordinator for the Forest & Watershed Health Assessment.

Dan reported that the final report for the Recreational Assessment will be published next month. He said that water-based recreation generated \$879.4 million in economic impact for the Gunnison River watershed and 6,150 jobs in 2020. Fishing alone provides \$32.75 million in economic impact and \$5.4 million in economic impact was generated by commercial white water rafting in 2020. Dan said the Colorado Parks and Wildlife data shows that there were 25,000+ user days on the Taylor Reservoir and 90,000+ user days on Blue Mesa Reservoir in 2020. According to user surveys, the three major issues identified were increasing recreational pressure and impact from the growing number of water users, population growth and climate change. Through the Recreational Assessment, Dan and partners have analyzed existing data; engaged stakeholders, analyzed the top recreational issues, and now will identify specific improvement projects and opportunities that the District and others may want to address. In addition, a boater census and creel survey will be conducted by CPW and TU during June through September 2021. The

District has provided \$10,000 through a District Grant in support of this effort. Next steps will be continued stakeholder meetings and project identification, followed by project development and fundraising.

Dan reported that funding for the Forest and Watershed Health study is being provided by the District, the CWCB Restoration Grant Program, Restore Colorado and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Phase 1 of the study began in March 2021 and will be completed by November 2022. Three main values have been identified: (1) Protection of existing beneficial uses; (2) economic stability and resiliency; and (3) protection and enhancement of water quality and quantity. Dan said the core technical subgroup has been established and they are working to consolidate their knowledge around all the existing data related to forest and watershed health. Dan said that after the data has been gathered and gaps have been identified, the workgroup will identify and implement mitigation strategies, collaborate where such opportunities exist and collaborate on research and monitor activities on an ongoing basis. Dan emphasized that both the Recreation and Forest and Watershed Health Assessments will be ongoing projects that evolve over time and are not meant to be reports that sit on a shelf.

General Manager Sonja Chavez commended Dan on his efforts thus far and said they are making great progress.

Director Rosemary Carroll noted that the National Science Foundation is about to embark on developing an extensive hydrologic model of the Taylor River and that as this project progresses, the data might be very beneficial to Dan and the WMP.

Director Joellen Fonken asked whether the Recreational Assessment final report would include a breakdown of professionally guided river trips versus those made by recreational boaters. Dan said that some of that data will be provided in the final report.

Dan also said that the CPW will likely be designating the Taylor River and the main stem of the Gunnison River as Gold Medal fishing waters, which is likely to bring more users to these rivers. Director Don Sabrowski asked if Dan has or will be reaching out to private landowners along the rivers for input about issues with trespassing. Dan said they would reach out to landowners going forward as they want to foster good relationships with private landowners.

## **6. BREAK**

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

### **A. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bill Nesbitt reported that the Finance Committee had met just prior to the Board meeting. One issue discussed was the District's loan of \$75,000 to the Water Activity Enterprise. Accountant Jill Steele reported that the loan had been made to cover start-up costs for the Meridian Lake project and that the loan carried no interest provisions, and that no deadline was specified for repayment of the \$75,000. Recently, there have been a number of Meridian Lake augmentation certificates purchased from the Water Activity Enterprise, leaving a cash surplus of nearly \$300,000. Therefore, the Finance Committee discussed using some of this cash to repay the District for the \$75,000 loan.

**Treasurer Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation for the UGRWAE to pay off the \$75,000 loan to the District. The motion carried.**

Treasurer Bill Nesbitt also reported that he and General Manager Sonja Chavez met with the District's investment advisor, Troy Hunsucker who trades through LPL Financial. Troy's recommendation was to purchase federal agency bonds, which carry a higher interest rate than our current COLOTRUST money mark account, and ladder their maturity dates for liquidity. Currently, the COLOTRUST money market account is earning .65 percent and Troy said that agency bonds would earn interest between .90 and 1.05 percent and are still very liquid. General Manager Sonja Chavez stated that there are currently no projects in the works that would require access to large amounts of cash. Treasurer Nesbitt noted that state statutes limit the District's investment terms to five years maximum and the District will be looking at bonds that mature in three or four years. Currently, there is over \$1.2 million in the COLOTRUST account. Sonja stated that according to the District's Financial Investment Policy on Holding Accounts (Section 1.1.6) *All investments of District funds must be approved in advance by the Board.* In addition, due to the size of the investment – the recommendation is for a trade of \$900,000 total - Bill felt it was important for the Board to be fully aware of the investment plans for transparency.

**Treasurer Bill Nesbitt moved to approve the Finance committee's recommendation of investing \$900,000 currently held in the Colorado Trust into US agency bonds for a better return. The motion carried.**

## **B. General Manager's Report**

General Manager Sonja Chavez referenced the committee reports and updates included in the packet.

## **C. Executive Committee**

Sonja reported that the committee met on April 8<sup>th</sup> and discussed updating the Strategic Plan, scheduling a Board Retreat this summer and held preliminary discussions of topics of miscellaneous matters. Sonja said the District will email the directors a survey poll in the next few weeks to formulate topics and training for the retreat, possibly in August 2021. She also noted that she was interviewing potential retreat facilitators.

Directors Andy Spann and Rosemary Carroll said that August would not be a good month for them to attend a Board retreat. Sonja said the committee will discuss this more at their next meeting in June.

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

Sonja referenced the WMP update included in the packet and asked if there were questions. None were raised.

## **E. Grant Committee**

Water Resource Specialist Beverly Richards updated information related to the grant applications for the Vegetable Irrigation/Gunnison Gardens and the Norman Ditch Diversion Rehabilitation Project. Vice President Stacy McPhail read the recommendations from the Grant memorandum dated April 14<sup>th</sup> as follows: (1) Modify the grant award for the *Solar Pumps for Vegetable Irrigation /Gunnison Gardens* to be \$4,365; (2) Approve the Grant Committee funding award recommendation for the *Norman Ditch Diversion Rehab Project* in the amount of \$9,600; and (3) Modify the District Grant Program funding award total in 2021 to be \$191,685.77, which incorporates Action Items #1 and #2 above.

**These recommendations were unanimously approved by the Board of Directors.**

#### **F. Education & Outreach Update**

Administrative Assistant Sue Uerling provided the update included in the packet and noted that the District's drought message is now being used through radio advertisements on stations in the valley and in weekly display ads in the *Gunnison Country Times*, *Crested Butte News* and *SilverWorld*. Sue said Sonja would also be writing an article for the *Gunnison Country Times*' "Summer Magazine" and a full-page ad will run in the magazine as well. This ad can then be used as a flyer to distribute to area hotels, restaurants, and attractions. The water bottles have been delivered and each Board and staff member received a bottle. They will also be distributed at the Gunnison River Festival, along with the reusable shopping bags and stickers that should be delivered in May. In addition to the yard signs already on order, Sue said that staff is looking into the possibility of billboards on Highway 50 and some aluminum signs on private property at the entrances to Gunnison. Director Rebekah Hazard reminded staff that property along Highway 114 should also be considered for one of these signs.

Later in the meeting, Water Resource Specialist Bev Richards reported that the framework and navigation for the District's website had been completed by Rob Strickland of Midnight Marketing and that the new version is now live. Bev reported that staff should be able to do most website updates in-house going forward. It was also noted that the Spring 2021 district newsletter was emailed to the newsletter email distribution list and that it is displayed on the new website at [www.ugrwc.org](http://www.ugrwc.org).

#### **G. Taylor Local User's Group (TLUG) Update**

Director Don Sabrowski briefly reviewed the TLUG meeting summary and noted that the TLUG members are in agreement to be more conservative with releases early in the season in hopes that this will retain some water for use in July. Don explained CPW's plans to drain Spring Creek Reservoir to make repairs to the dam outlet works and how this will help provide additional water for the lower Taylor River later in July. Discussion was held around the discrepancies in historical Bureau of Reclamation inflow forecast model predictions versus actual inflows. At this point, a complete

comparison does not exist. In 2020, the difference in modeled versus actual was about 10,000 acre-feet less. Director Andy Spann noted that his observations are that actual flows have traditionally been lower than the BOR's forecast models. Director Rosemary Carroll pointed out that this is a good example of why the installation of the new gages on Taylor and Willow are a good investment by the District to provide better data.

## **H. Basin Water Supply Update**

Discussion also followed about possible water calls from Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association. Director Spann asked if we had heard anything about flooding issues in the lower Gunnison basin when they turned on the canal. Sonja indicated she had been contacted. The UVWUA started charging their canal system around March 16<sup>th</sup> and ramped up faster than normal which caused some issues because there was also a warm period at the same time which caused a pulse of snowmelt in the Uncompahgre River. General Counsel John McCloy reported that he and Sonja had spoken with Jason Ullmann and Bob Hurford at the Division of Water Resources and it was determined that UVWUA will not be able to place a call in 2021 and perhaps indefinitely. This is because the Bureau of Reclamation makes additional releases from the Aspinall Unit to meet flow targets on the Gunnison River at the Whitewater Colorado gauge as required by the 2012 Aspinall Unit Re-Operations Record of Decision. This water is flowing over the Gunnison Tunnel diversion dam and is legally available for appropriation. Under that condition, the Division Engineer cannot honor a call on the river by UVWUA. Bob Hurford noted that, based on the records from 2002, a call would yield very little water, making it a futile call. John also reported that the Gunnison River Spreadsheet is being redefined and that it might be helpful to have Jason Ullmann explain the changes to the Board.

Water Resource Specialist Beverly Richards gave a brief overview saying a good portion of our area is still in extreme drought, although conditions on the front range and some of the areas to the south have improved thanks to late season snowfall. From western Colorado all the way to the Pacific coast, the majority of this area is experiencing extreme or exceptional drought, and the outlook does not look for improvement anytime soon. Bev reported that there were some successful cloud seeding days at the end of March and that the program ended on April 15<sup>th</sup> with less production than last year. General Manager Sonja Chavez said she will go out with Water

Commissioner Tom Rozman to do one last snow survey for the season. Snowpack is considerably below average for this time of year.

Director Joellen Fonken said she appreciates an extra 50 cfs in June for the Gunnison River Festival. Director Rosemary Carroll noted that her yard in Mt. Crested Butte is free of snow right now. Any new snow we are receiving is melting pretty quickly.

## **I. Scientific Endeavors**

Director Rosemary Carroll reported that her organization has convened an evapotranspiration (ET) working group and will share the paper being written by this working group to the District once published. As part of this effort, Director Carroll is working on a hydrologic model that covers the East River to the Almont stream gage. Her preliminary results indicate approximately 50% of the precipitation that comes into the East River is consumed by (ET).

Rosemary also reported that Laura Conden, who is from University of Arizona (daughter of a farming family), has received a large grant from the National Science Foundation to lead a pilot project to connect hydrological science models to practical software tools that can be used by water managers. The U.S Bureau of Reclamation is also involved. Phase I of the study is to develop a rough version of this tool and their pilot site is the Taylor River. Director Carroll thinks if Phase II is funded, this tool will be very useful to the District and she looks forward to Laura's collaboration with the USGS, NOAA and other groups of hydrologic and atmospheric scientists working on similar efforts. If the second phase of the project is funded, which deals with educating stakeholders on use of the scenario tools, Director Carroll will be serving on the project advisory committee and will keep the District abreast of those efforts.

Finally, a meeting is being coordinated by Graham Sexton (USGS researcher and expert on snow hydrology) and Suzanne Paschke (Lead USGS Project Manager) on May 5<sup>th</sup> to coordinate efforts between NGWOS (Next Generation Water Observation Systems) efforts and Department of Energy's funded Science Focus Area (SFA) networks dealing with data on snowpack, stream flow, soil moisture, meteorological conditions, etc.

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

Director Rosemary Carroll said the group would meet again in May for a field trip. Sonja requested that because the District owns Meridian Lake Reservoir (aka Long Lake) that General Counsel John McClow be included in these meetings and Rosemary offered to share Jake Jones contact information.

#### **K. Gunnison River Festival Update**

Director Joellen Fonken said the festival board will be finalizing the 2021 schedule at their meeting on Wednesday, April 28. Joellen said she was contacted by members of the “surfers” who noted that they were not being included in festival plans. Joellen will be meeting with them on Tuesday, April 27 to discuss how they might be involved in the festival activities. Joellen reported that she had just gotten word from the county that the festival plans have been approved and meet public health orders for Covid-19. Joellen said a “Taylor Tuesday” will be held just prior to the River Festival and everyone from the District is invited. General Manager Sonja Chavez is encouraging all Board and staff to get involved with the festival and help out so that our community could become more familiar with their Upper Gunnison District Board representation. The District is looking into getting shirts imprinted for the festival to identify Board and staff.

#### **8. UPPER GUNNISON DISTRICT DEMAND MANGEMENT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING: DRAFT REVIEW**

General Counsel John McClow and General Manager Sonja Chavez presented a summary of work done by CWCB analyzing various aspects of demand management. John said he wanted the Board to see this presentation to understand just how far the state has come and the work yet to be done. The next steps for the District are to identify what our Board expects or demand from any demand management program. John said that the Gunnison Basin Roundtable has begun preparing their own unique statement after looking at a statement from the Yampa Roundtable, as it did not meet some of their expectations. Preliminary feedback from UGRWCD is that while the CWCB’s presentation is comprehensive and organized, it is overwhelming to look at and understand what is going on with regard to development of a demand management framework.

Director Nesbitt asked what others are thinking. Sonja indicated that the Colorado River District, Andy Mueller, is still convening western slope demand



management discussions. A final report from those efforts should be available in next few months.

Sonja discussed a recent article on a study done by Homestake to track a 1,500 AF release to see if they could track/shepherd it to the State line. They were not able to do so, which begs the question of whether demand management will even work. Director Joellen Fonken attended the CWCB's virtual meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and got the impression that the main purpose of the meeting was trying to make sure that no one was stepping on someone else's toes. She wonders if this will end up being a program where a whole lot of work will have gone into its planning but then it will end up being put on a shelf. Sonja reported that she still has concerns about land purchases with attached senior water rights being made by hedge fund investors. The Grand Valley Water Users Association just had two more ag properties purchased making a single hedge fund investor the largest single shareholder. Director Carroll talked about models made in Nevada related to tracking conserved consumptive use and said they are extremely complicated and cost millions of dollars for a single basin and they still have a hard time tracking the water. She said that all water isn't created equal and transit losses will vary greatly in addition to a million other things.

## **9. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

Vice President McPhail referenced the articles included in the packet.

General Manager Sonja Chavez expressed concerns about the possibility of the CB RV dump station closing. Several others also expressed concerns. Sonja offered to follow-up with Gunnison Public Works Director David Gardner about the improvements that are being proposed for the Gunnison RV dump station. She will also stay abreast of ongoing discussions in Crested Butte about the possibility of them closing their station or looking for another location.

Sonja also requested that if Board members are approached by constituents about augmentation water questions, they should please refer the person directly to Beverly Richards as there are many intricacies associated with the program and various steps that our District helps constituents get through, so we want to make sure they are getting the correct information.

## **10. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No comments were brought forth.

## **11. FUTURE MEETINGS**

See schedule in Board Packet.

## **12. SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

General Manager Sonja Chavez and Treasurer Bill Nesbitt will follow-up with investment advisor Troy Hunsucker to invest in agency bonds as approved by the Board.

Director Rosemary Carroll will forward the Long Lake Stakeholders Work Group contact information to General Counsel John McClow so that he will receive meeting notices and summaries.

John will continue to work on a UGRWCD demand management framework statement or statement of position after taking into consideration the statement currently under development by the GBRT via John's leadership.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Stacy McPhail adjourned the April 26, 2021 meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Perusek, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Stacy McPhail, Vice President

# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Budget Summary 2021

	April	Year to Date	2021 Budget	% Received or Expended	\$ Remaining in Budget
<b>Revenues</b>					
General property	\$ 209,959	\$ 668,248	\$ 1,347,248	49.60%	\$ 679,000
Specific Ownership	7,087	31,146	65,000	47.92%	33,854
Pen. & Interest on Taxes	24	32	3,300	0.98%	3,268
Interest on Investments	192	1,324	52,500	2.52%	51,176
Water Quality Monitoring		-			-
Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise	12,268	12,268	12,268	100.00%	-
Gunnison County	12,815	12,815	12,815	100.00%	-
National Park Service		-	7,839	0.00%	7,839
Skyland Metro District	1,393	1,393	1,393	100.00%	-
<b>Total Water Quality Monitoring</b>	<b>26,476</b>	<b>26,476</b>	<b>34,315</b>	<b>77.16%</b>	<b>7,839</b>
Aspinall Water Sales		-	19,885	0.00%	19,885
Aspinall Augmentation Late Fee	-	40			(40)
Aspinall Unit Admin Fee	200	3,400			(3,400)
Aspinall Water Sales - Other	621	19,252			(19,252)
<b>Total Aspinall Water Sales</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>22,692</b>	<b>19,885</b>	<b>114.12%</b>	<b>(2,807)</b>
Cloud Seeding Program - Passthrough		23,750	93,750	25.33%	70,000
Wet Meadows Project - Passthrough	5,000	5,000	388,000	1.29%	383,000
Watershed Management Planning - Passthrough		29,104	174,000	16.73%	144,896
Miscellaneous	-	2,681	1,000	268.10%	(1,681)
Unspent Funds from Previous Year		-	32,325	0.00%	32,325
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 249,559</b>	<b>\$ 810,454</b>	<b>\$ 2,211,323</b>	<b>36.65%</b>	<b>\$ 1,400,869</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
GRF Expenses to Reimburse		5,000.00			
Operating		-			
Administrative Salaries	\$ 26,303	\$ 105,212	\$ 315,635	33.33%	\$ 210,423
Staff Salaries	12,378	49,034	154,061	31.83%	105,027
Payroll Taxes	3,075	12,274	36,495	33.63%	24,221
Employee Benefits		-			
Medical Insurance	2,899	14,177	34,425	41.18%	20,248
Colorado Retirement Association	2,523	10,092	31,002	32.55%	20,910
Workers Comp. Ins.	2,502	2,990	5,000	59.80%	2,010
Gen. Counsel CLE & Memberships	-	309	3,000	10.29%	2,691
Gen. Manager CE & Memberships	-	-	2,000	0.00%	2,000
Staff Development and Training	-	-	4,000	0.00%	4,000
Employee Benefits - Other	-	-			0
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>7,924</b>	<b>27,567</b>	<b>79,427</b>	<b>34.71%</b>	<b>51,860</b>
Public Outreach	305	305			
Website Updates	-	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000
Public Education/Advertising	-	770	12,000	6.42%	11,230
Gunnison River Festival Support	-	7,500	7,500	100.00%	0
Mini-Grants	-	189	2,000	9.45%	1,811
Youth Conservation Corps Support	-	-	6,500	0.00%	6,500
Social Media	-	4	5,000	0.09%	4,996
<b>Total Public Outreach</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>8,768</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>25.79%</b>	<b>25,232</b>
Audit and Accounting	130	130	7,500	1.74%	7,370
Utilities and Assoc. Dues		-			
Condo Association Dues	550	2,200	6,600	33.33%	4,400
Utilities	493	2,283	2,196	103.94%	(87)
Office Cleaning	-	-	4,600	0.00%	4,600
Utilities and Assoc. Dues - Other	-	-			
<b>Total Utilities and Assoc. Dues</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>4,483</b>	<b>13,396</b>	<b>33.46%</b>	<b>8,913</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	401	100.00%	0
Bonding and Insurance - Other	-	-			
<b>Total Bonding and Insurance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>10,274</b>	<b>3.90%</b>	<b>9,873</b>
Office Telephone	2,027	4,298	7,110	60.46%	2,812
Office Equipment		-			
Furniture	-	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000
Computer Purchase	-	-	4,000	0.00%	4,000
IT Support/Computer Repair	645	1,774	5,800	30.59%	4,026
Other Equipment	-	80	5,000	1.60%	4,920
Board Room A/V Upgrade	-	15,638	20,000	78.19%	4,362
Copier Expenses	255	1,338	4,380	30.54%	3,042
Office Equipment - Other	-	-			
<b>Total Office Equipment</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>18,830</b>	<b>40,180</b>	<b>46.86%</b>	<b>21,350</b>

# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Budget Summary 2021

	April	Year to Date	2021 Budget	% Received or Expended	\$ Remaining in Budget
<b>Legal Publication</b>	310	1,185	6,000	19.74%	4,815
<b>Admin.Travel &amp; Exp.</b>	-	73	22,000	0.33%	21,927
<b>Office Expenses</b>		313			
Spencer Ave. Reimbursable		-	-		
Office Supplies	592	2,687	3,100	86.67%	413
Consumable Supplies	-	11	1,200	0.92%	1,189
Publications & Subscriptions	80	92	1,500	6.13%	1,408
Computer, Internet, LexisNexis	1,186	4,164	6,250	66.63%	2,086
Software	1,627	2,550	4,800	53.13%	2,250
Office Expenses - Other	-	118			
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	3,485	9,935	16,850	58.96%	6,915
<b>Postage</b>	-	22	1,500	1.48%	1,478
<b>BOD Expenses</b>		-			
Travel Reimbursement	63	63	10,000	0.63%	9,937
BOD Discretionary Fund	-	-	2,000	0.00%	2,000
BOD Expenses - Other	-	-			
<b>Total BOD Expenses</b>	63	63	12,000	0.52%	11,937
<b>Meeting Expenses</b>	-	116	3,500	3.32%	3,384
WAE - Meeting Expenses	-	-			
Meeting Expenses - Other	-	-			
<b>Total Meeting Expenses</b>	-	116	3,500	3.32%	3,384
<b>County Treasurers' Fees</b>	6,527	21,245	42,466	50.03%	21,221
<b>Board of Directors' Fees</b>	800	2,600	13,520	19.23%	10,920
LSCWAE BOD Meeting Fees	-	-			
Board of Directors' Fees - Other	-	-			
<b>Total Board of Directors' Fees</b>	800	2,600	13,520	19.23%	10,920
<b>BOD Mileage</b>	35	35	2,200	1.60%	2,165
<b>Org. Memberships &amp; Dues</b>		-			
Colorado Water Congress Dues	-	2,251	2,060	109.27%	(191)
Colorado Water Congress State Affairs	-	500	400	125.00%	(100)
Colorado Water Congress Federal Affairs	-	-	200	0.00%	200
NWCCOG-QQ Dues	-	530	530	100.00%	0
Water Education Colorado	-	-	500	0.00%	500
Special District Assoc. of Colo	-	-	1,650	0.00%	1,650
Employers Council	-	-	925	0.00%	925
Weather Modification Association	-	500	300	166.67%	(200)
Org. Memberships & Dues - Other	-	500	-		(500)
<b>Total Org. Memberships &amp; Dues</b>	-	4,281	6,565	65.21%	2,284
<b>Manager's Discretionary</b>	-	178	3,000	5.94%	2,822
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 65,305</b>	<b>\$ 270,730</b>	<b>\$ 357,983</b>	<b>75.63%</b>	<b>\$ 87,253</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>	1,750	3,020	1,000	302.04%	(2,020)
<b>Aspinall Water Costs</b>	-	562	17,326	3.24%	16,764
<b>Regional Water Supply Prog.</b>		-			
Grant Program	76,236	97,317	200,000	48.66%	102,683
Enhancing Resiliency Riparian (Wet Meadows)		10,622	418,000	2.54%	407,378
NRCS		-			-
CPW Wetlands Grant		-			-
BLM Coop. Agree. L17AC00255		-			-
USFS PA-2 17-PA-11020407-00		-			-
NFWF Phase II	5,000	14,466			(14,466)
Enhancing Resiliency Riparian - Other	333	1,000			(1,000)
<b>Total Enhancing Resiliency Riparian</b>	5,333	26,088	418,000	6.24%	391,912
<b>Cloudseeding</b>		-	118,000	0.00%	118,000
Irwin Remote Generator	873	11,442			(11,442)
Cloud Seeding	15,120	83,660			(83,660)
Cloudseeding - Other		-			-
<b>Total Cloudseeding</b>	15,993	95,102	118,000	80.59%	22,898
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>	97,563	218,507	786,000	27.80%	567,493

# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Budget Summary 2021

	April	Year to Date	2021 Budget	% Received or Expended	\$ Remaining in Budget
<i>Basinwide Planning</i>		-			-
Watershed Management Planning		-			-
Watershed M P In-Kind		-			-
WMP Phase 2 Task 6		-			-
WMP Phase 2 Task 3		-			-
WMP Phase 2 Task 1		-			-
CWCB PO 2019-2891	3,725	33,480			(33,480)
WMP Phase 1 Task 4		-			-
Watershed Management Planning - Other	3,990	9,581			(9,581)
Total Watershed Management Planning	7,715	43,061	175,000	24.61%	131,939
Watershed Mgmt Pln Implementati		-	50,000	0.00%	50,000
RMBL Weather Monitoring Network		-	5,000	0.00%	5,000
Basinwide Planning - Other		9,000			(9,000)
<b>Total Basinwide Planning</b>	<b>7,715</b>	<b>52,061</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>22.64%</b>	<b>177,939</b>
<i>Water Quality Monitoring</i>		-			-
Streamflow Gaging		28,211	51,416	54.87%	23,205
Water Quality Monitoring		10,434	58,000	17.99%	47,566
Agency Pass Through Funds			34,315	0.00%	34,315
Watershed Stakeholder Support			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>-</b>	<b>48,645</b>	<b>165,731</b>	<b>29.35%</b>	<b>117,086</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>\$ 107,028</b>	<b>\$ 322,795</b>	<b>\$ 1,247,898</b>	<b>25.87%</b>	<b>\$ 925,103</b>
<b>Contingency</b>			<b>\$ 24,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>\$ 24,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 172,333</b>	<b>\$ 593,525</b>	<b>\$ 1,629,881</b>	<b>36.42%</b>	<b>\$ 1,036,356</b>
<b>REVENUES OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 77,226</b>	<b>\$ 216,929</b>	<b>\$ 581,442</b>	<b>37.31%</b>	

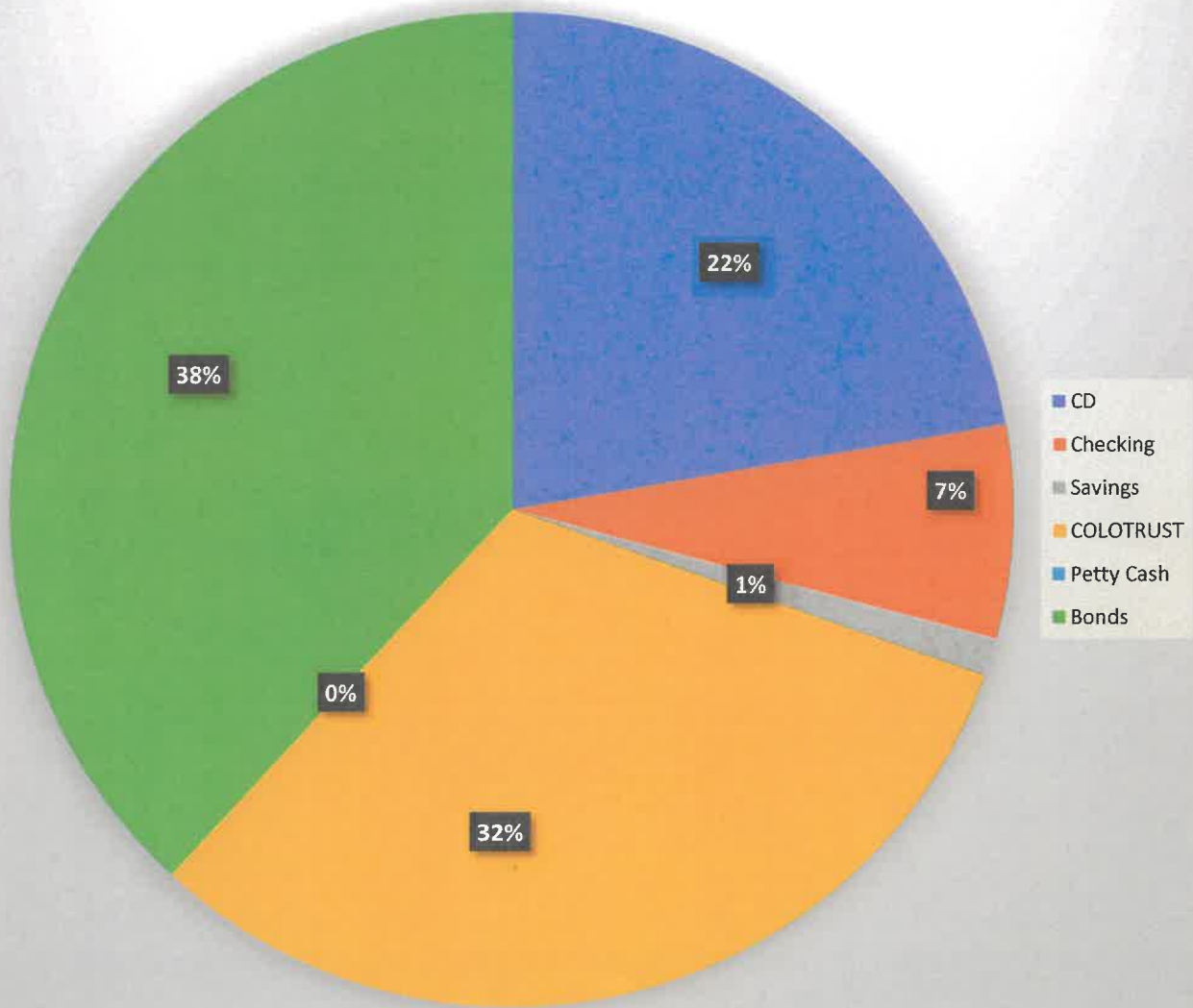
**UGRWCD & UGRWAE BANK BALANCES, INTEREST RATES, MATURITY DATES**

<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>4/30/2021</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Callable</b>	<b>Deposits by Bank</b>
					COLOTRUST \$ 1,641,525.39
					Bank of the West 467,245.23
1420 Community Banks of Colo. CD	51,564.17	0.40%	9/26/2022		Community Banks of Colo. 243,299.88
1400 Gunnison Savings & Loan CD	108,406.45	1.75%	8/10/2022		Gunnison Savings & Loan 257,787.45
1390 Comm. Banks of Colo. CD Lake City	101,735.71	0.15%	2/20/2022		Gunnison Bank & Trust 240,040.97
1410 Bank of the West CD	105,038.19	0.35%	12/22/2022		LPL Financial (Was Sigma) 2,262,577.62
1470 Mountain View Bank CD	105,590.96	1.51%	9/19/2021		
1520 Gunnison Bank & Trust CD	200,000.00	1.90%	2/26/2025		Petty Cash 100.00
LPL Bond 13 (US Treas. Note) CUSIP 912828SF8	399,980.00	2.00%	2/15/2022	2/15/2022	
					Mountain View Bank 105,590.96
LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	250,000.00	0.875%	3/17/2026	9/17/2021	<b>TOTAL ALL BANKS \$ 5,218,167.50</b>
1490 GS&L CD	149,381.00	2.05%	10/18/2024		
LPL Bond 17 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130 AHDS 9	200,000.00	1.68%	10/18/2023	10/18/2021	
LPL 22 Merrick Bank CD thru LPL CUSIP 59013KLR5	249,000.00	0.35%	12/30/2024		
LPL 19 Pac. Western CD thru LPL CUSIP 69506 YRJ O	245,000.00	1.20%	4/17/2023		
LPL Bond 20 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130 AJLA 5	550,000.00	0.75%	5/19/2025	5/19/2021	
LPL 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	25,468.86	0.01%	N/A		
1295 COLOTRUST PLUS+	1,358,782.22	0.0651%	N/A		
1290 COLOTRUST PRIME	243,142.98	0.0051%	N/A		
LPL Money Market Account	23,597.62		N/A		
1540 GB&T - Spencer Avenue Reserve	40,040.97	0.15%	N/A		
Petty Cash	100.00	N/A	N/A		
<b>TOTAL UGRWCD</b>	<b>\$ 4,841,829.13</b>				
<b>UGRWAE</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Maturity</b>		
<b>Account Name</b>	<b>4/30/2021</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Date</b>		
Bank of the West Checking	\$ 336,738.18	N/A	N/A		
COLOTRUST PLUS+	39,600.19	0.0651%	N/A		
<b>TOTAL UGRWAE</b>	<b>\$ 376,338.37</b>				
<b>TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE</b>	<b>\$ 5,218,167.50</b>				

### UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	22%	\$ 1,161,716.48
Checking	7%	362,207.04
Savings	1%	63,638.59
COLOTRUST	31%	1,641,525.39
Petty Cash	0%	100.00
Bonds	38%	\$ 1,988,980.00
Total	100%	<u>\$ 5,218,167.50</u>

### UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Operating Expenses for Approval

5/17/2021

Name	Account	Amount
Adobe, Inc.	Office Expenses - Software	\$ 1,427.16
Anthem	Employee Benefits	250.14
Atmos Energy	Utilities	98.81
Atmos Energy	Utilities	60.90
BankCard Center	Various	3,744.57
Beverly Richards	Staff Salary	3,078.19
Business Leasing Solutions	Office Equipment - Copier	254.70
Colorado Employers Benefit Trust	Employee Benefits - Health Insurance	2,169.07
City of Gunnison Finance	Utilities	75.35
City of Gunnison Finance	Utilities	136.17
Crested Butte News	Public Outreach = \$125.00 Legal Publication = \$322.95	447.95
Dove Graphics	Office Expenses	55.00
EFTPS	Payroll Taxes	9,474.22
GL Computers	Computer Repair/Service - Monthly	400.00
GL Computers	Computer Purchase	2,918.97
Great West Retirement	Employee Benefits	8,555.87
Gunnison Country Publications	Public Outreach = \$100.00 Legal Publication = \$287.35	387.35
J&K Services, Inc.	Office Cleaning	560.00
Jill Steele	Staff Salary	3,130.45
Jill Steele	Employee Benefits	277.53
John McClow	Administrative Salary	9,713.73
John McClow	Employee Benefits	202.40
LexisNexis	Office Expense - LexisNexis	564.69
Microsoft	Microsoft Office Software	100.00



5/17/2021

# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Operating Expenses for Approval

Name	Account	Amount
Pat's Screen Printing	Public Outreach	\$ 2,347.90
Pinnacol Assurance	Workers' Compensation Insurance	669.00
Silver World Publishing	Public Outreach = \$100.00 Legal Publication = \$22.00	122.00
Sonja Chavez	Administrative Salary	6,609.82
Sonja Chavez	Administrative Travel	117.60
Spencer Avenue Business Park	Condo Dues	550.00
Sue Uerling	Staff Salary	2,171.04
The Paper Clip	Office Supplies	140.78
United Healthcare	Employee Benefits	102.60
Verizon	Office Telephone	181.54
<b>Total Operating Expenses Payable</b>		<b>\$ 61,095.50</b>

# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Non-Operating Expenses for Approval

5/17/2021

Name	Account	Amount
American Whitewater	Watershed Management Planning	\$ 520.00
Colorado Trout Unlimited	Watershed Management Planning	1,732.50
Colorado Trout Unlimited	Watershed Management Planning	450.00
Gunnison County	Grant Program	40,000.00
Gunnison County	Grant Program	30,000.00
Gunnison Valley Service Pros	Building Expenses	1,400.00
Hartman Brothers	Cloud Seeding - Irwin Remote	28.05
North American Weather Consultants	Cloud Seeding	475.00
Peterson Ranch	Grant Program	6,236.17
Rignet, Inc.	Cloud Seeding - Irwin Remote	45.18
Wilson Water Group	Watershed Management Planning	6,745.00
Tomichi Creek Eco Systems Services	Wet Meadows Coordinator Salary	5,333.33
<b>Non-Operating Expenses Payable</b>		<b>\$ 92,445.23</b>



**BANK OF THE WEST**  
BNP PARIBAS

BANKCARD CENTER  
PO BOX 84043  
COLUMBUS GA 31908-0443

Date Rec. 5-7-21 Adm. Clk. [Signature]  
Mgr. Appr. [Signature] Amt. Appr. [Signature]  
Bd. Appr. Date [Signature] Bd. Initials [Signature]  
Pd. Date [Signature] Clk. [Signature]  
Account(s) Various

Account Number XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948

Payment Due Date MAY 24, 2021

Amount Due \$3,744.57

Current Balance \$3,744.57

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

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS \*\*N00002170  
210 W SPENCER AVE STE B  
GUNNISON CO 81230-2544

Amount Enclosed

\$ 3744.57

⑆5868 250 13⑆55693 2000 1527948⑈

⑆0000374457⑆

### 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
	\$1,794.39	\$3,744.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,794.39	\$3,744.57

### CARDHOLDER NEW ACTIVITY SUMMARY

SONJA CHAVEZ XXXX-XXXX-0153-1676 Credit Limit \$12,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$2,757.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,757.94
BEVERLY RICHARDS XXXX-XXXX-0153-1692 Credit Limit \$3,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$505.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$505.61
JILL STEELE XXXX-XXXX-0153-1700 Credit Limit \$3,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$481.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$481.02

For Customer Service, Call:

1-866-432-8161

#### Account Number

XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948

#### Account Summary

Previous Balance \$1,794.39

Purchases &  
Other Charges \$3,744.57

Statement Date

APR 28, 2021

Payment Due Date

MAY 24, 2021

Cash Advances \$0.00

Cash  
Advance Fees \$0.00

Late Charge \$0.00

Finance Charges \$0.00

Credits \$0.00

Credit Limit

\$100,000

Available Credit

\$96,255.43

Amount Due

\$3,744.57

Disputed Amount

\$0.00

Payments \$1,794.39

New Balance \$3,744.57

**\*\*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 31908-0443

**received**  
05/07/2021



Statement Date	APR 28, 2021	Payment Due Date	MAY 24, 2021
Credit Limit	\$100,000	Amount Due	\$3,744.57
Cash Advance Balance	\$0.00	New Balance	\$3,744.57
Available Credit	\$96,255.43		
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS			
XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948			

### 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  
\$1,794.39 CR

Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
04-22	04-22		PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT	1,794.39 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 \$2,757.94 CASH ADVANCES \$0.00 CREDITS \$0.00 TOTAL ACTIVITY \$2,757.94

Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
3-29	03-27	55432861086200453648289	Intuit *PayrollEE usag 833-830-9255 CA	
		Tran: T1-251c9a-c0 Tax ID: 770034661 Mer Ref: T1-251c9a-c0 Mer Zip: 92129		10.00
3-31	03-30	55432861089200367440614	IN *J&K SERVICES INC. 970-9016267 CO	
		Tran: 14437 Tax ID: 770034661 Mer Ref: AP4CXP9H Mer Zip: 81230-4054		560.00
		Product Code: 48 Desc: MARCH 2021 JANITORIAL SCOPE OF SERV Qty: 1 Unit: NMB		
		Unit Cost: 580.0000 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 580.00		
		Product Code: 69 Desc: ULV FOGGING SCOPE OF WORK (INCLUDED Qty: 1 Unit: NMB		
		Unit Cost: 0.0100 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 0.01		
4-02	04-01	55500361091206297500272	GUNNISON FIBER-MESH NE 9702096920 CO	
		Tran: 06705580772420002 Tax ID: 830313552 Mer Ref: 2591938009 Mer Zip: 81230		210.76
4-12	04-09	55417341099270993115401	GOBINS INC 719-5442324 CO	
		Tran: 27099311526 Tax ID: 840683368 Mer Zip: 81003 Origin Zip: 81003-4139 Dest		208.96
		City: USA		
		Product Code: MCF Desc: OFFICE PHOTO COPY EQUIPMNT Qty: 1 Unit: EA Disc: N		
		Ext Item Amt: 208.96		
4-14	04-13	55432861103200285916721	IN *SPECIAL DISTRICT A 303-8631733 CO	
		Tax ID: 770034661 Mer Ref: AP670MNR Mer Zip: 80203-1614		1,650.00
4-21	04-19	55458851110083335979464	DENVER POST CIRCULATIO 3038323232 CO	
		Tran: 78761422S Tax ID: 760425553 Mer Ref: 169648993 Mer Zip: 80202		11.99
		Origin Zip: 80202 Dest Zip: 812302544 Dest City: USA		
		Product Code: SUBSCRIPTION Desc: DENVER POST Qty: 1 Unit: ITM Disc: N Ext Item		
		Amt: 11.99		
-22	04-21	05314611112000363115121	THE DIVE AT MARIOS GUNNISON CO	
		Tax ID: 271400229 Mer Zip: 81230		96.23
-26	04-24	55432861114200231495850	Intuit *PayrollEE usag 833-830-9255 CA	
		Tran: T1-2517e5-b9 Tax ID: 770034661 Mer Ref: T1-2517e5-b9 Mer Zip: 92129		10.00



### CARDHOLDER ACTIVITY

BEVERLY RICHARDS XXXX-XXXX-0153-1692		PURCHASES \$505.61	CASH ADVANCES \$0.00	CREDITS \$0.00	TOTAL ACTIVITY \$505.61
Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount	
03-31	03-30	55429501089852373127515	PAYPAL *WEATHERMODI 4029357733 CA Tran: 37312751 Tax ID: 770510487 Mer Ref: 37312751 Mer Zip: 95131 Origin Zip: 95131 Dest Zip: 95131 Dest Ctry: USA	30.00	
04-01	03-31	55429501090637173484480	SP * SF BAY COFFEE 9162588000 CA Tax ID: 556490315 Mer Zip: 95648 Unit: Mer ID: 445606748991 Mer Addr: AVIATION BLVD	114.95	
04-09	04-08	85179391098980003669616	FIREBRAND DELI GUNNISON CO Tax ID: 841300037 Mer Zip: 81230	100.05	
04-09	04-08	75418231098118420944607	MICROSOFT MSBILL.INFO MSBILL.INFO WA Tran: Z41DJP4TBEBYB Tax ID: 911144442 Mer Zip: 98052	20.00	
04-27	04-26	05314611117000357440027	MARIOS PIZZA & PASTA - GUNNISON CO Tax ID: 271400229 Mer Zip: 81230	216.00	
04-28	04-26	55263521117837001150131	SAFEWAY #0617 GUNNISON CO Tax ID: 943019135 Mer Ref: 111600115013 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Dest Zip: 81230 Dest Ctry: USA Tax: 1.64 Product Code: 079 Desc: LIPTON PURELEAF RASPBERRY ICED TEA Qty: 1 Unit: FZ Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 6.99 Product Code: 079 Desc: LAVAZZA COFFEE ROAST CLASSICO MEDIU Qty: 1 Unit: OZ Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 8.99 Product Code: 079 Desc: COCA COLA CLASSIC SODA FRDG PK Qty: 1 Unit: FZ Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 5.99 Product Code: 079 Desc: SPRITE SODA FRIDGE PACK Qty: 1 Unit: FZ Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 5.99	24.61	

JILL STEELE XXXX-XXXX-0153-1700		PURCHASES	CASH ADVANCES	CREDITS	TOTAL ACTIVITY
		\$481.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$481.02
Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount	
03-29	03-27	55310201086083779945258	AMZN MKTP US*KE8I25LI3 AMZN.COM/BILLWA Tran: 794 Tax ID: 202936165 Mer Ref: 54D4RA4LHOK Mer Zip: 98109 Origin Zip: 98109 Dest Ctry: USA Tax: 3.74 Product Code: B08931JJLV Desc: NEXIGO AUTOFOCUS 1080P WEBCAM WITH Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 45.81	45.81	
04-05	04-02	55429501093852590971087	MTNSTATEEM 3032235419 CO Tran: 59097108 Tax ID: 770430924 Mer Ref: 59097108 Mer Zip: 80201 Origin Zip: 80201 Dest Zip: 80201 Dest Ctry: USA	145.00	
04-20	04-17	15449851109190460353479	MOUNTAIN STATE EMPLOYE 3038395177 CO Tran: 363209 Tax ID: 846021302 Mer Zip: 80203 Tax: 15.00 CR	250.00	
04-27	04-27	55432861117200908701629	AMZN MktP US*RT3MN34A3 Amzn.com/billWA Tran: 112-7609760-45410 Tax ID: 202936165 Mer Ref: 2oXeK485cUluyzMfG Mer Zip: 98109 Tax: 3.28 Product Code: B000NNS5PQ Desc: Pentel BK90V R.S.V.P. Stick Ballpoi Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 7.61 Product Code: B08KTJ8TXQ Desc: Artificial Plants Purple Lavender G Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 14.10 Product Code: B07PV8DSG8 Desc: Artificial Plants Desk Fake Succule Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 18.50	40.21	

American Whitewater

# INVOICE

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

INVOICE #: 5054  
INVOICE DATE: 04/24/2021  
PERFORMANCE PERIOD: 03/01 – 03/31/2021

**TO:**

**PROJECT CONTRACT #: UG2020-016**

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

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
03-31-21	Phase 2, Task 2: Stakeholder engagement	5	\$40	\$200
03-31-21	Phase 2, Task 3: Finalize report	8	\$40	\$320
03-31-21	In-Kind Phase 3, Task 1: Boatable Days Study	5	\$40	\$200
TOTAL				\$720

Tasks	Total
Phase 2, Task 2	\$200
Phase 2, Task 3	\$320
Phase 3, Task 1	\$200
Total	\$720
In-Kind	\$200
Billed to UGRWCD	\$520

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!

Date Rec. 4-27-21 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Clk# \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) UGRWCD

**Colorado Trout Unlimited**

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

# INVOICE

**INVOICE #: 13****INVOICE DATE:** May 10, 2021**PERFORMANCE PERIOD:** 4/1/2021 – 4/30/2021**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
4/1/21	Task 7: GWMP Taylor Watershed Description & Invoice/Report	3	45.00		135.00
4/6/21	Task 3: Stakeholder meetings & CFRI research	2	45.00		90.00
4/8/21	Task 3: Issue mapping & stakeholder meetings, CWCB forest health call	4	45.00		180.00
4/9/21	Task 3: Stakeholder meetings & prep	2	45.00		90.00
4/12/21	Task 3: Stakeholder meetings	2	45.00		90.00
	Task 7: GWMP Coordination Mtg.	1	45.00		45.00
4/13/21	Task 2: Update Rec Report	1	45.00	45.00	
	Task 3: Meeting prep, meeting with Maya MacHamer & Ashley Hom	2	45.00		90.00
4/14/21	Task 3: GFWH Meeting, SOW development, Call with Ashley Hom	4	45.00		180.00
4/15/21	Task 4: Gunnison Forest Health SOW strategy	1	45.00		45.00
4/19/21	Task 1: Update Rec Report, Rec Survey development/contracting	2	45.00	67.50	22.50
	Task 3: GMUG Forest Health Meeting	2	45.00		90.00

**Colorado Trout Unlimited**

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

**INVOICE****INVOICE #: 12****INVOICE DATE:** April 1, 2021**PERFORMANCE PERIOD:** 3/1/2021 – 3/31/2021**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
3/2/21	Task 1: Rec Summary Report/ Meeting with CPW	1	45.00	45.00	
3/3/21	Task 7: Consultant Report and Invoice	2	45.00	45.00	45.00
3/4/21	Task 3: Prep & Fire Risk Assessment Meeting	4	45.00	90.00	90.00
3/8/21	Task 2: AW Report Review	1	45.00	45.00	
	Task 3: Fire Stakeholder mapping	1	45.00	45.00	
	Task 7: GWMP Coordination Mtg.	1.5	45.00	67.50	
3/9/21	Task 1: TLUG Stakeholder Meeting Prep	1	45.00		45.00
	Task 3: Meeting with Sam Pankratz	0.5	45.00	22.50	
3/10/21	Task 1: TLUG Stakeholder Meeting	2	45.00	90.00	
3/12/21	Task 3: Gunnison Forest Health Meeting	2.5	45.00	67.50	45.00
3/15/21	Task 3: UGRWCD Workgroup coordination & Call with BLM	2	45.00	45.00	45.00
3/17/21	Task 2: AW Report Review/Rec Maps	2	45.00	45.00	45.00
3/22/21	Task 3: Prep for UGRWCD Forest Health Workgroup Meeting	2	45.00	90.00	



**Approved to pay - Budget Line Item 44 - Regional Water Supply  
Improvement Program - Sub-line Item - Grant Program - 2019**

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Grant  
Reimbursement Request Template**

**Date:** 4/8/2021

**Project Name:** Shady Island River Park

**UGRWCD Contract Number:** N/A

**Reimbursement Request Amount:** \$ 40,000

**Match Provided:** \$ 1,738,040 (includes land acquisition and all other funds applied to project)

**Project Performance Period:** June 2019-November 2021

**Applicant/Payee Name:** Gunnison County

**Check Payable To:** Gunnison County

**Applicant Address:** 200 E. Virginia Ave., Gunnison, CO 81230

**Applicant Phone:** 970-641-0248

**Applicant Email:** [cpagano@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:cpagano@gunnisoncounty.org)  
[jcattles@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:jcattles@gunnisoncounty.org)

Date Rec. 4-30-21 Adm. Chd. AL  
Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Clk \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) Grant Program 2019

**PROJECT DELIVERABLES:**

We allocated this grant for water and sewer service and distribution. The site has access to the north Gunnison sewer extension and well water. In December 2020 the main sewer was tapped and sewer service extended into the site to serve two restroom facilities on the site; one near the parking lot and the second near the boat ramp. Service to the boat ramp required crossing a side channel to the river. In an effort to minimize impact to the side channel and maintain proper cover over the sewer line a small lift station was placed to serve the restroom near the boat ramp. The lift station will pump via a forced main to the restroom near the parking lot where the sewer service becomes a traditional gravity system. Water will be served by a well on the site. A shallow well exists on the site but will need to be re-drilled. The well permit is in place and the project is on the well driller's schedule for this spring. Water service has been installed and runs from the well location to the restroom on near the parking lot where a small water treatment facility will be installed. Water treatment is required per CDPHE in order to serve domestic water to the public. From the first restroom, and treatment facility, water service has been extended to the second restroom location. Additionally, water will be available for campers. All of the water and sewer infrastructure has been installed with the exception of the new well and is ready to serve restrooms which are anticipated to be built later in 2021.

**Approved to pay - Budget Line Item 44 - Regional  
Water Supply Improvement Program - Sub-line Item -  
Grant Program - 2020**

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Grant  
Reimbursement Request Template**

**Date:** 4/8/2021

**Project Name:** Shady Island River Park

**UGRWCD Contract Number:** UG2020-028

**Reimbursement Request Amount:** \$ 30,000

**Match Provided:** \$ 1,738,040 (includes land acquisition and all other funds applied to project)

**Project Performance Period:** June 2020-August 2021

**Applicant/Payee Name:** Gunnison County

**Check Payable To:** Gunnison County

**Applicant Address:** 200 E. Virginia Ave., Gunnison, CO 81230

**Applicant Phone:** 970-641-0248

**Applicant Email:** [cpagano@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:cpagano@gunnisoncounty.org)  
[jcattles@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:jcattles@gunnisoncounty.org)

**PROJECT DELIVERABLES:**

This grant funding was allocated toward the construction of parking lots which will improve stormwater management on the site and minimize impacts to the river. The parking lots have been cleared and the structural base course installed. The County recycled concrete from a previous demolition project and crushed it for the base course of the parking lot and roads. The finish course will also be recycled asphalt which will be semi-permeable in order to minimize runoff. Retention areas have been created to catch runoff from the parking lot and ensure stormwater does not enter the river or side channel. The road crossing over the side channel is installed and the road roughed in out to the ramp. Three jetties into the river have been completed which create two eddies for the boat ramp and small craft launch. The boat ramp is complete and all in-stream work is finished and reclaimed.

The County worked with experts from CPW to create additional fish habitat in the river utilizing boulder clusters to create small pockets for fish in the main channel and along the shoreline. Impacted river banks have been reclaimed and areas where high volumes of foot traffic are expected have been armored with boulders and cobble.

**Difficulties Encountered/Corrective Action:**

Gunnison Valley Service Pros  
PO Box 926  
Crested Butte, CO 81224 US  
(970) 901-1449  
gunnisonvalleyservicepros@gmail.com  
http://gunnisonvalleyservicepros.com



## INVOICE

**BILL TO**  
210 West Spencer, Suite B  
Gunnison, CO 81230

**INVOICE #** 1357  
**DATE** 04/03/2021  
**DUE DATE** 04/03/2021  
**TERMS** Due on receipt

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
<b>Service</b> UGRWCD Second coat of stain for the trim/fascia	1	1,750.00	1,750.00

Second coat of stain for the buildings fascia

Hi Sonja!

**BALANCE DUE**

**\$1,750.00**

20% deposit due at this time (\$350). This will be on our calendar sooner than later as we are able to work with stains in cooler temps. I will be in touch soon for schedule.

Talk soon, thank you!

Nate

Date Rec. 5/3/21 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
Mgr. Appr.                      Amt. Appr.                       
Bd. Appr. Date                      Bd. Initials                       
Pd. Date                      Ckd.                       
Account(s) Building Expense

- Maint. & Repair

Jill,

Please process final  
payment to Gunnison  
Valley Service Pros.

\$1,750  
- 350 Deposit Paid  
\$ 1,400

Thanks!

Sonja

**Hartman Brothers, Inc.**

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

**Sold To:**

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CON  
210 WEST SPENCER AVE., SUITE B  
GUNNISON, CO, 81230

**Shipped To:****CYLINDER RENTAL INVOICE**

CUSTOMER No.		CUSTOMER P.O. No.		PERIOD				INVOICE DATE			INVOICE No.		PAGE
Y-Y		M-M		D-D									
M05447				04/01-04/30				2021 04 30			344179		1
DESCRIPTION	DATE		DEL.NOTE #	INVOICE No.	CYLINDER STATEMENT				CONTRACT	CHARGE	RATE	AMOUNT	T A P E
	M-M	D-D			BAL	SUPPL	RETURN	NEW BAL					
NITROGEN 60CF					3			3	0				
30 days	04	30			3	0	0	3	0	90			
Total										90	0.300	27.00	XD
					Date Rec. _____				Adm. Chd. _____				
					Mgr. Appr. _____				Amt. Appr. _____				
					Bd Appr. Date _____				Bd. Initials _____				
					Pd. Date _____				Cld _____				
					Account(s) _____								
TERMS					TYPE: S - DEMURRAGE L - MONTH END D - DAILY N - FREE H - HIGHEST				SUB-TOTAL		27.00		
NET 30 DAYS									SALES TAX		1.05		
VALUE OF CYLINDER INVENTORY ON HAND									TOTAL		28.05		

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

Customer Copy

# 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 #
5/6/2021	21-2142

### Bill To

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

Proj #	Terms
20-454	Net 30

Qty	Description	Rate	Amount
47.5	Reimbursable Seeding Generator Hours @ 10.00/hr - April 1 - 15, 2021	10.00	475.00
<div>Date Rec. <u>5-12-21</u> Adm. Ckd. <u>[Signature]</u> Mgr. Appr. _____ Amt. Appr. _____ Bd. Appr. Date _____ Bd. Initials _____ Pd. Date _____ Ckd _____ Account(s) <u>seed seeding</u></div>			
Total			\$475.00

accounting@nawcinc.com

www.nawcinc.com

received  
05/11/2021

Approved to pay Budget Line Item 44 - Regional Water Supply Improvement Program -  
Sub-line Item - Grant Program 2021

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Grant Reimbursement Request

Date: April 21, 2021

Project Name: McGowan Irrigating Ditch Diversion Structure

UGRWCD Contract Number: UG2021-016

Reimbursement Request Amount: \$6,236.17

Match Provided: \$6,236.28

Project Performance Period:

Applicant/Payee Name: Greg Peterson

Check Payable To: Peterson Ranch, Inc.

Applicant Address: 53466 US Highway 50, Gunnison, CO 81230

Applicant Phone: 970-641-0699

Applicant Email: gregpeterson@montrose.net

Date Rec. 5-3-21 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ckd. \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) Grant program

**PROJECT DELIVERABLES:**

- Photo and Expense Documentation (provided with application)
- Signed Warranty Statement

**Difficulties Encountered/Corrective Action:**

- Problem(s) / Changes: Sides of structure were not as secure as desired.
- Resolution / Corrective Action: Added abutments as described in scope of work.

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

Applicant/Payee Signature & Date: Peterson Ranch Inc. by G. Peterson President

Upper Gunnison Project Manager Signature & Date: Beverly Richards 5/3/21





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

**Invoice**      **202104\_472**  
**Date**        30 April, 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 Apr - 30 Apr 2021

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## Summary

Total Airtime and Fees this Period	USD	45.18
<b>Total Amount This Invoice</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>45.18</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. 5-5-21    Adm. Ck. [Signature]  
Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) cloud seeding  
Truist Remote.

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## Summary per Product

Product	Charge Type	Amount (USD)
OrbCommIDP	Subscription Fee	33.00
OrbCommIDP	Airtime	10.23
OrbCommIDP	Other	1.95
<b>Total for OrbCommIDP</b>		<b>45.18</b>

April 22, 2021

Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
2010 West Spencer, Suite B  
Gunnison, CO 82130



**RE: Invoice #7 - Upper Gunnison Watershed Management Planning Contract UG2020-006**

Sonja,  
Below is an invoice for professional services of Wilson Water Group for the WMP in the Upper Gunnison River Basin from December 26, 2020 through April 22, 2021. Primary activities and progress reports follow the invoice.

**Professional Services**

Staff	Hours	Rate	Total
Erin Wilson	13.0	\$ 195	\$ 2,535.00
Mitch Frischmeyer	37.0	\$ 105	\$ 3,885.00
Tammi Renninger (ElephantFish)	5.0	\$ 65	\$ 325.00
Amount Due this Invoice			\$ 6,745.00

**Project Accomplishments**

**Task 1 – Data Compilation & Gap Identification**

- Finalized data collection for Taylor River and Tomichi River
- Finalized straight-line diagrams for Tomichi, reviewed and updated straight-line diagrams for Taylor River

**Task 2 – Current Use Assessment**

- No efforts this period

**Task 3 – Infrastructure and Reach Assessment**

- No efforts this period

**Task 4 – Water Rights Allocation Model Enhancements**

- No efforts this period

**Task 5 – Final Report**

- Drafted Basin Characteristics Section for the Taylor River, currently being reviewed internally

**Task 6 – Project Coordination**

- Participated in coordination calls, including a call with Dave Gochis to review current efforts for snowpack monitoring in the Taylor River basin
- Continued to obtain and manage GIS coverages
- Coordinated on potential uses of available Lidar for project purposes

**Activity Anticipated for Spring 2021**

**Task 1 – Data Compilation & Gap Identification**

- Continue to support Water Commissioner and Division Engineer, as their time allows, to address discrepancies with water rights, diversion records, and irrigated acreage (on-going until completed). Begin creating final characteristic for Cebolla Creek.

Approved for payment - Budget line item 45 -  
Basinwide Planning - Subline Item - WMP (Bill  
\$3,275 to NPS PO#2021-4821)

Date Rec. 4-30-21 Addn. Chd. [Signature]  
Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Clk \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) WMP



**Task 2 – Current Use Assessment**

- Incorporate Municipal Use memo and graphics/summaries of Ag into final report sections.

**Task 3 – Infrastructure and Reach Assessment**

- Continue to be available and provide information, as requested, to Apple Gate.

**Task 4 – Water Rights Allocation Model Enhancements**

- No efforts anticipated in Spring 2021.

**Task 5 – Final Report**

- Finalize internal review and provide Taylor River sections for WMP team review.

**Task 6 – Project Coordination**

- Continued participation in coordination calls.
- Continued collecting GIS data and supporting other efforts.

**Budget Summary**

Task	Budget	Month Costs	Cumulative Costs	Contract Balance	Projected Completion Date
1. Data Compilation	\$ 15,860	\$3,780.00	\$ 15,837.50	\$ 23	05/30/2021
2. Current Use Assessment	\$ 9,710	\$ 105.00	\$ 6,150.00	\$ 3,560	05/30/2021
3. Infrastructure/Reach Assess	\$ 10,300	\$ -	\$ 1,235.00	\$ 9,065	Unknown
4. Water Rights Model Update	\$ 6,420	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,420	06/30/2021
5. Final Report	\$ 10,550	\$1,950.00	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 8,600	06/30/2021
6. Project Coordination	\$ 13,020	\$ 910.00	\$ 7,868.75	\$ 5,151	06/30/2021
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 65,860</b>	<b>\$6,745.00</b>	<b>\$ 33,041.25</b>	<b>\$ 32,819</b>	<b>06/30/2021</b>

**Comments and Concerns**

We have updated the projected completion dates to reflect an approximate 6-month extension from the initial schedule.

WILSON WATER GROUP LLC



Erin M. Wilson  
Principal

# **AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Legal and Legislative Matters**

## **Taylor Park Reservoir Second Fill Decree**

This water right, also referred to as the Refill Right, was obtained by the District in 1990 (Case No. 86CW203). The total amount of the water right decreed to the reservoir is 106,230 acre-feet. The refill right has an appropriation date of August 28, 1975 and a priority date of December 31, 1985. Of the total decreed in 1990, 44,700 acre-feet was decreed absolute and 61,530 feet conditional. While the water is impounded in Taylor Park Reservoir, it is decreed for use for recreational purposes, including fishery and wildlife. The decree further provides that the impounded water shall be released at times and in quantities calculated to enhance the fishery and recreational uses of the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers above Blue Mesa Reservoir. Of the total amount of the 1990 decree, 19,200 acre-feet (13,777 acre-feet absolute and 5,423 conditional) has the additional use for increased and supplemental irrigation within the District. The decree provides administration and accounting for storage and release of water in the reservoir (Schedule A).

The District assigned the Refill Right to the United States by an Assignment executed by the District and the United States in April, 1993. The Assignment was made pursuant to an agreement signed by the District, the Colorado River Water Conservation District, the UVWUA and the United States on April 16, 1990 (1990 Agreement). The 1990 Agreement provides that:

The United States shall continue to use and hold the water rights for the adjudicated purposes subject to the 1975 Agreement or any subsequent operational agreement between the United States, Gunnison District, Colorado District and the Association.

Thus, even though the United States is the owner of the Refill Right, it is contractually obligated to “use and hold” that right for fishery, recreation, flood control and irrigation purposes for the benefit of the District.

In May of 2016, the conditional portion of the Refill Right was made absolute in Case No. 11CW31. The Refill Right was modified slightly to provide for additional uses in Case No. 2015CW3064 signed by the water court judge on December 28, 2016.

## **1975 Taylor Park Reservoir Operation and Storage Exchange Agreement**

With the completion of Blue Mesa Reservoir in 1966, an opportunity was created for Taylor Park Reservoir to be operated not only for irrigation of the Uncompahgre Valley, but also to provide benefits in the Upper Gunnison Basin. In 1975, the Upper Gunnison District entered into the Taylor Park Reservoir Operation and Storage Exchange Agreement with the Colorado River Water Conservation District, the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA), and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The purposes of the Agreement are to stabilize flows on the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers, to facilitate the management and exchange of water between Taylor Park Reservoir and Blue Mesa Reservoir, to provide flood control, to supplement irrigation uses, and to optimize fishery and recreation conditions in the reservoir and the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers.

The exchange of water authorized under the 1975 Agreement continues to the present day and operates as follows: When releases from Taylor Park Reservoir are greater than the amount required by the UVWUA for immediate irrigation use at the Gunnison Tunnel, the excess is stored in Blue Mesa Reservoir for the credit of the UVWUA. When releases from Taylor Park Reservoir are not sufficient to meet the needs of the UVWUA at the Tunnel, the United States releases from the Aspinall Unit the water credited to the UVWUA. In the event that the UVWUA's credit in the Aspinall Unit is insufficient to meet its needs for irrigation, the United States releases water stored under its Aspinall Unit decrees to the Gunnison Tunnel and the United States receives credit for a like amount in Taylor Park Reservoir. In 1979 the Agreement was amended to allow the UVWUA credits to be carried forward from year to year in Blue Mesa Reservoir.

Paragraph 8 of the Agreement provides:

The parties hereto agree that an application for a water right may be made by the Gunnison District on all surplus flows in Taylor River above Taylor Park Reservoir . . . Taylor Park Reservoir will be operated in such a manner to assist the Gunnison District in using such water provided all other purposes herein and the original purposes of said reservoir are accommodated.

Based on this agreement, the District obtained a decree for the second filling of Taylor Park Reservoir.

The District and the Colorado River Water Conservation District pay an annual fee to the UVWUA for the benefits received in the Upper Gunnison Basin under the Agreement.

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Jason Ullmann - CO Division of Water Resources**

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

**General Manager and Committee Reports**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** May 17, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** General Manager's Report

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- I. Treasurer's Report** – Update from Director Nesbitt.
- II. Watershed Management Planning** – Please see attached General Manager Memorandum.
- III. Grant Committee** – Please see attached Memorandum from Beverly Richards.
- IV. Education & Outreach** – Please see attached Memorandum from Beverly Richards & Sue Uerling.
- V. Taylor Local Users Group & Four Parties Meetings** – Please see attached General Manager Memorandum.
- VI. Basin Water Supply Information May 2021** – Please see attached Memorandum from Beverly Richards.
- VII. Scientific Endeavors** – Update from Director Carroll.
- VIII. Crested Butte Land Trust Long Lake Stakeholder Work Group** – Update from Director Carroll and John McClow.
- IX. Gunnison River Festival** – Update from Director Fonken.

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

## **Treasurer's Report**



## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** May 18, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Watershed Management Planning Update

---

**Background:** Since 2017, the District has been conducting comprehensive and community driven watershed and stream management planning within the Upper Gunnison basin. The purpose is to protect and improve existing and future water uses within the basin. Following are updates related to those efforts since our April 26, 2021 Board of Directors (BOD) regular meeting.

### **Updates:**

- A. ***Recreation & Angling Assessments:*** Additional data expected from spring/summer 2021 Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) Creel Surveys. The District also received notice from Dan Omasta of Colorado Trout Unlimited (WMP Coordinator) that he has accepted a position with Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). He will be covering Gunnison County, he will be greatly missed by the WMP Team and District, and we wish him the very best.
- B. ***Municipal Assessment:*** The City of Gunnison will be giving a presentation to the UGRWCD on the results of their City Water Master Plan Study effort on June 14, 2021 at 1:30pm. All who are interested are welcome to join:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88345726993?pwd=UnM1ODNCNGptaFFlQXNaSzYxenlQZz09>
- C. ***UGRWCD Watershed & Forest Health Technical Sub-Group:*** The District is working on finalizing a draft scope of work for a first phase assessment. The technical sub-committee decided to break the project down into a phased approach and start with a HUC 12 assessment that will help us identify zones of concern that we could then prioritize for a more in-depth HUC 14 analyses. The General Manager will be continuing discussions with Colorado TU on our existing contract and when they anticipate filling Mr. Omasta's position. Our existing Memorandum of Agreement can be terminated at any time if for example, we feel that waiting for Dan's replacement could cause significant delays to the project.

The General Manager and coordinator have also been communicating with Colorado Natural Heritage Program on re-doing our basin wetland inventory (mapping and field verification; possibly in partnership with RMBL or others) and another Boulder based

company about rapid assessment of fluvial hazards. More information will be provided as conversations progress.

- D. ***Agricultural Assessment:*** On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Applegate Group Engineers (Craig Ullman and Steven Morris) and members of the WMP Team (Jesse Kruthaupt, Bev Richards, Sonja Chavez) conducted field site visits for District Grant Program projects requiring engineering as well as spent time with Ohio Creek stakeholders on the Otis Moore, Hildebrand, Gleason and Lone Pine. Raquel Flinker (Colorado River District; taking over Dave Kanzer's engineering and Gunnison basin responsibilities) joined us in the field to become more familiar with basin characteristics and water resource needs, and to visit the Outcalt No. 2 & GTVA project site.

We received a summary of engineering considerations and engineering cost estimates from Applegate. This input has been documented and shared with applicants with request for them to follow-up with District in person regarding their thoughts and anticipated next steps.

Finally, we also visited the Elsen Vader grant project site (between the current Lobdell No. 2 and McCanne No. 3 projects on Tomichi Creek) and staff is of the opinion that this project also needs engineering support. The grant applicant was submitted by Trout Unlimited who welcomed the offer. The engineering support for this project would fit under our existing \$30,000 approved engineering assistance budget line item approved by the Board. In total and at this time, we estimate an engineering budget of approximately \$21,600 which includes a 20% General Manager contingency figure for unanticipated additional expenses.

It was a long, hot and successful field day. We are pleased with the engineering support we are receiving from Applegate and are even more convinced that it helps ensure the greatest possible natural resource benefits and project outcomes.

- E. ***2021 Upper Gunnison River Restoration & Irrigation Improvement Project*** (a.k.a. Outcalt No. 2 & GTVA Shared Ditch Diversion Wing Inlet): We are beginning to put together draft contracting documents with the Colorado River District. Water right holders are working on their shared infrastructure and joint operation and maintenance agreement. We expect a final draft to be ready this week and we anticipate having General Counsel review. This will be required by both the UGRWCD and Colorado River District. Finally, we are in a Floodplain AE Zone which requires that we submit a 1-dimensional flood plain model analyses to the County for review. This work has been completed and is being prepared for submission. Our analyses shows that we are under the 0.3 ft (+/-) critical threshold for change in flood plain levels which would require a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Beverly Richards/Water Resource Specialist

DATE: May 11, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Grant Program Status

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As a result of the 2021 Grant Program, the District received a total of 19 grant applications and awarded funds to 17 of those applicants. The total amount awarded for 2021 was \$191,685.77. This brings the 2009-2021 District Grant Program total to over \$1.64 million and 118 projects.

The contracting process is underway for the 2021 awards. To date we have fully executed six contracts, three contracts are awaiting signature, and the remaining eight are in progress pending receipt of additional information from the applicants.

There were three grant awards in 2021 where the award was contingent upon engineering evaluation. On April 30<sup>th</sup> Applegate Engineering, Trout Unlimited, Colorado River District Engineer (Raquel Flinker), landowners and staff visited the three sites. Engineering considerations were relayed to the applicants and we anticipate in person follow-up.

In summary, the measures taken to streamline the Grant Program in 2021 have resulted in a smooth contracting process. There were some lessons learned as well, which will be reevaluated and addressed in the 2022 grant program cycle.

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

**FROM:** Sue Uerling, Administrative Assistant and  
Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist

**DATE:** May 14, 2021

**SUBJECT:** District Outreach & Education Update

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### **I. Radio:**

- Sonja will record three new radio spots to run on **KEJJ, KVLE and KPKE** through the remainder of May and June. Through June 13<sup>th</sup>, the spots will include a tagline of: “Please join us for the Gunnison River Festival June 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.” The three spots will focus on reducing fire danger, mindful lawn watering and water tips for tourists. All of the radio spots also include the winning drought slogan: “**Water. It doesn’t grow on trees**” as the tagline.
- The District’s updated underwriting message on **KBUT** is running daily. In addition, Sonja was interviewed by Michael Elizabeth Sakas of Colorado Public Radio about the impacts of the current drought. We anticipate that the interview will run on Colorado Public Radio stations the week of May 17<sup>th</sup> and we will update the Board as soon as we know more. In addition, Ms. Sakas indicated the story may be picked up by National Public Radio stations as well.

### **II. Newspapers:**

- The *Gunnison Country Times* and *Crested Butte News* have both been very cooperative about reporting on drought conditions and water stories. (See copies of these articles in the Miscellaneous Matters section.) In addition, the *Gunnison Country Times*’ “Summer Magazine” which is distributed at visitor centers, hotels, restaurants, newsstands, and other visitor-frequented locations throughout the area, will feature an article by Sonja and will include a full-page color ad (as follows) to market the drought message. The magazine will be distributed with the May 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the paper.

### **III. Promotional Products:**

- In addition to the water bottles, the District has received 300 reusable shopping bags from Pat’s Screen Printing. While the color of the bags is not quite what we were anticipating, the message is large and clear, and the bags are very roomy. (All Board members will receive a bag and can take extras to distribute to appropriate contacts.)
- OffCenter Designs is reporting that our order of 1,000 oval stickers and 250 double-sided yard signs are to be delivered the week of May 24<sup>th</sup>.

We will be seeking help with distributing the products from the National Honor Society, Student Leadership Council and Track Team at Gunnison High School, as well as from the Gunnison and Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce, the Board, staff and other volunteers. All items will be given out at the Gunnison River Festival on June 11-13<sup>th</sup> as well.

**IV. Posters, Rack Cards, Table Tents, Billboard and Signage:**

- Colored copies of the full-page ad graphics are available for distribution. (Board members will be given a supply at the meeting to hang in their own businesses and to take to other businesses they frequent for display.) The District is also exploring cooperative efforts with the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee (STOR), Chamber of Commerce, and local municipalities to have the water conservation, drought message, back country etiquette and other visitor conservation messages included on rack cards and table tents. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
- As indicated by Sonja at the April meeting, due to the amount of upfront work needed to pursue billboards and signage on private property, staff will pursue this activity further in 2022. We will keep our eyes and ears open and remain flexible should an opportunity for messaging arise.

**V. Newsletter:**


- The spring edition of the District newsletter went out on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, just a little later than we had planned due to the need to complete the website redesign before we were able to publish. To get back on schedule, the summer edition will be emailed on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and the focus of this edition will be about District sponsored programs.


**VI. Social Media:**

- Most of the District's social media updates lately have been focused on drought conditions and articles, as well as promoting the Gunnison River Festival.

**VII. Website Update:**


- The website's new framework and navigational changes are now live and seem to be working much smoother. In addition, documents relating to the Black Canyon and Aspinall operations have been added to the history page. American Whitewater's "Boatable Days Tool" is also live and running on the Watershed Management Planning page. Bev and Sue are still training on making updates to the site but so far have been able to make almost all of the changes in house.

**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER  
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**



**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER  
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**


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

 Teresa Golden

[TLUG Monthly Meeting Notice](#)  
**READ MORE »**

[Spring Newsletter 2021](#)  
**READ MORE »**

[UGRWCD Announces 2021 Grant Awards](#)  
**READ MORE »**



### GUNNISON RIVER FESTIVAL - JUNE 11-13, 2021

It's back! Please join us for the 18th Annual Gunnison River Festival! The Gunnison River Festival is held annually by the Nonprofit Gunnison River Festival and governed by a community board. The scope of the festival is the celebration of the headwaters of the Gunnison Watershed that flow into the Gunnison River. Many partners have participated in creating an evolving environment and influencing the Festival.


Don't miss out on the fun! Click on the **READ MORE** button for the full schedule.


**READ MORE**

*"Water is the lifeblood of the economy and community in the upper Gunnison Valley. Make sure that you are a part of shaping its future for decades to come."*



Sonja Chavez

**UGRWCD #OurWater**



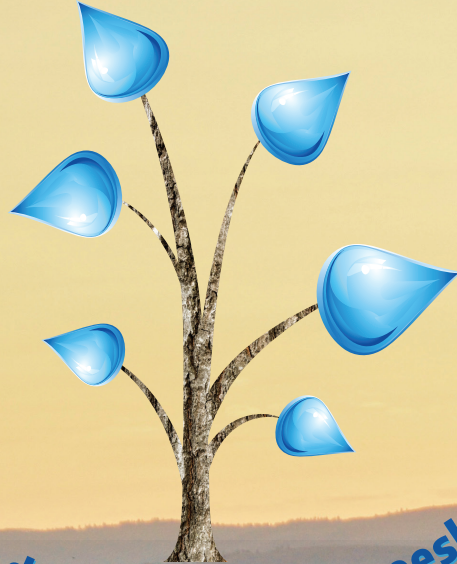
**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER  
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

[HOME](#) [SITE MAP](#) [FAQ](#) [CONTACT](#)



# WATER



*It doesn't grow on trees!*

## WATER

It truly is the most vital natural resource in the West.

Please, treat it respectfully.

**BE WATER WISE**

- \* Do you really need those hotel sheets cleaned daily?
- 40% of homeowners over-water their lawns.
- The Gunnison Basin is in the midst of a long-term drought. Fire danger is extremely high. **DO NOT** leave campfires unattended.
- \* Support agricultural operations.  
Don't trespass. Keep pets on a leash.
- \* Be polite, respectful, and aware of the rules while recreating in rivers, streams and reservoirs.

Photos below by Teresa Golden







*Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Taylor Local Users Group (TLUG)  
**DATE:** May 7, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Taylor Local Users Group Meeting Minutes

A TLUG meeting was held on May 7, 2020 via Zoom video/teleconference. Attending the meeting were the following TLUG members:

Ernie Cockrell, representative for Taylor Placer  
Pete Dunda, representative for property owners  
Roark Kiklevich, representative for wade fishing interests  
Don Sabrowski, UGRWCD Board representative and TLUG Chair  
Mark Schumacher, representative for whitewater recreation interests

Absent: Andy Spann, representative for irrigators

Also present: Dan Brauch (CO Parks & Wildlife); Dustin Brown (Scenic River Tours); Ryan Christianson (BOR); Tom Fowlds (BOR); David Gochis (National Center for Atmospheric Research-NCAR); Erik Knight (BOR); Ches Russell (Scenic River Tours); Jason Ullman (DWR), Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, Jill Steele and Sue Uerling (all UGRWCD staff)

Chair Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order and asked Bev Richards to read the names of those participating via Zoom.

Erik Knight of the Bureau of Reclamation provided an update on Taylor River Operations. According to the Colorado River Forecast Center, the Taylor Reservoir is just under 59 percent of average. Erik reported that there was a big loss of approximately 10,000 acre feet from the last forecast (April 15<sup>th</sup>). Therefore, they have reduced their prediction for maximum fill to 81,940 feet. Erik noted that this would leave the end of year storage content in the neighborhood of 56,500 feet, so the TLUG may want to consider adjustments to releases. He reported that the snowpack is



## 210408 TLUG Meeting Summary

currently at 72 percent of median for 2021 as of May 1, which will likely leave inflows well below average, close to the historical 25<sup>th</sup> percentile, among some of the lowest years for the Taylor Basin. Erik said the snowpack data shows the whole Upper Gunnison basin at 72 percent of seasonal normal. April Snow Water Equivalent was 29% of average. He said the basin has lost nearly half of the snowpack already. Reclamation predicts that peak run off will be earlier than normal (approximately May 15<sup>th</sup>) and that the soil moisture content is very dry.

David Gochis reported that NCAR's Taylor basin inflow model results for May 1 show projected inflows dropping from 60,000 to 50,000-acre feet. He also said that above Mirror Lake, he is estimating there is 25 to 30 inches of snowpack and that at the Trail Creek site, he estimates about 15 inches still on the ground, well below normal for this time of year. He offered to share the complete data with the group.

Chair Don Sabrowski asked General Manager Sonja Chavez if the Texas and Willow Creek gages were installed yet and she replied that it now looks like it will be May rather than April. She will follow-up with Steve Anders (USGS).

Erik Knight predicts that if we stay dry, model forecasts for inflow will probably continue to drop.

Chair Don Sabrowski asked if it would be prudent for the TLUG group to make any adjustments to flows at this time? Erik said it would probably be worth some discussion unless all of the TLUG members are already at the minimum flows they can live with. Mark Schumacher said that for rafting, 200 cfs would be the minimum flow needed to make it down the river and that given our poor snowpack, the rafting season may just be over by the end of August. Don said that for irrigation purposes, the need for the water would be more important during the months of June and July, so irrigators would just not be able to fall irrigate if inflows continue to drop. After further discussion, Mark Schumacher made a motion for the TLUG group to wait to make any changes to flow requests until after the next forecast model is released at the beginning of June. The motion was seconded by Ernie Cockrell and carried unanimously by the TLUG members present.

Water Resource Specialist Bev Richards reviewed the new TLUG tab on the UGRWCD website and reviewed where they can find the meeting announcements, summaries, and Taylor Park Operational updates.

General Manager Chavez reported that Jason Ullmann of the Colorado Division of Water Resources will give a presentation about the changes to the Gunnison River spreadsheet at the May UGRWCD Board Meeting on May 25, 2021 at noon. TLUG members and stakeholders are welcome to attend via Zoom. Sonja also reminded the group that the Gunnison River Festival will be June 11-13 with the Taylor River Race on June 11<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged all to attend.

## 210408 TLUG Meeting Summary

Dan Brauch of CO Parks and Wildlife reported that the Spring Creek outlet works rehabilitation project is still on target. Draining is set to commence in late May and continue through June and July. He reported that fishing tags will be removed so that the fish in the reservoir can be harvested prior to complete draw down.

Chairman Sabrowski asked if the CPW will be able to gage inflows to the lower Taylor from Spring Creek. Dan said that he did not believe they have a way to measure that other than just monitoring levels in the reservoir.

Don referenced the meeting summary from the April 8, 2021 meeting that was included in the meeting materials. There were no comments about or changes to this summary.

The consensus of the group was to meet again on **June 9<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon** for the next TLUG Meeting.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

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

**DATE:** May 14, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Basin Water Supply Information

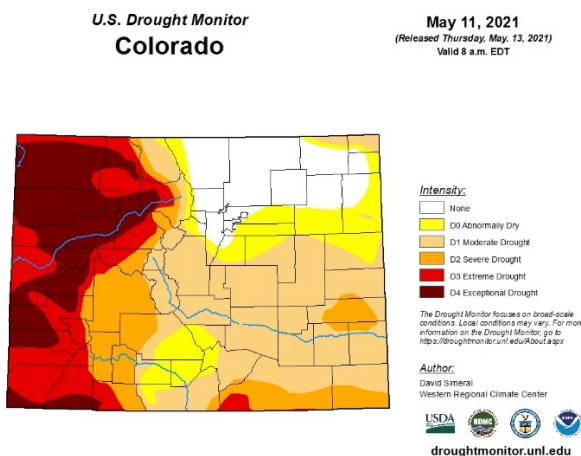
The information supplied as part of this memorandum will be a monthly feature and will include information about drought conditions in the basin, snowpack information from NRCS or streamflow information from USGS, Aspinall Unit operations from the Bureau of Reclamation, Taylor Park Reservoir Storage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

### **Drought Conditions:**

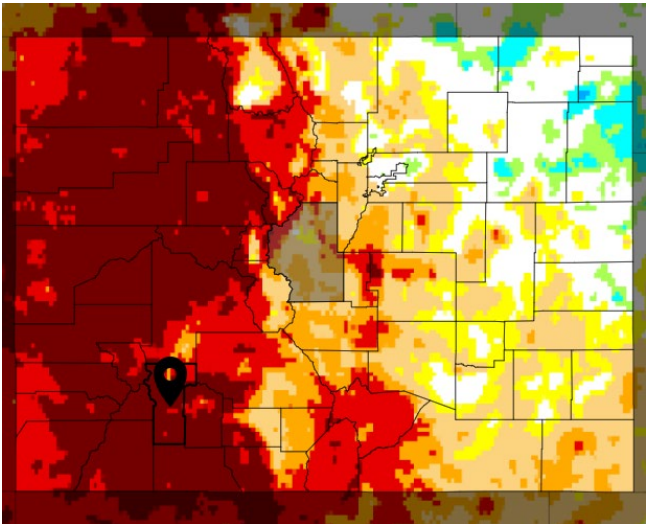
According to the *U.S. Drought Monitor* at [drought.gov](http://drought.gov), as of May 11, 2021, 13.82% of Colorado is in severe (D2), 13.07% in extreme (D3), and 16.39% in exceptional (D4) drought conditions. As per the table below, there has been a significant change in drought severity as more of the state is now in the D0 and D1 categories, with a good portion of the northeast with no drought conditions registered, and less of the state are in the D2-D4 categories, with the largest reduction occurring in the severe (D2) category. However, there was a slight increase in the exceptional category, mostly in the western part of the state.

Date	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
May 13, 2021	13.05	11.76	31.92	13.82	13.07	16.39
April 13, 2021	0	7.69	30.62	29.56	17.48	14.65
Change	+13.05	+4.07	+1.30	-15.74	-4.41	+1.74

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



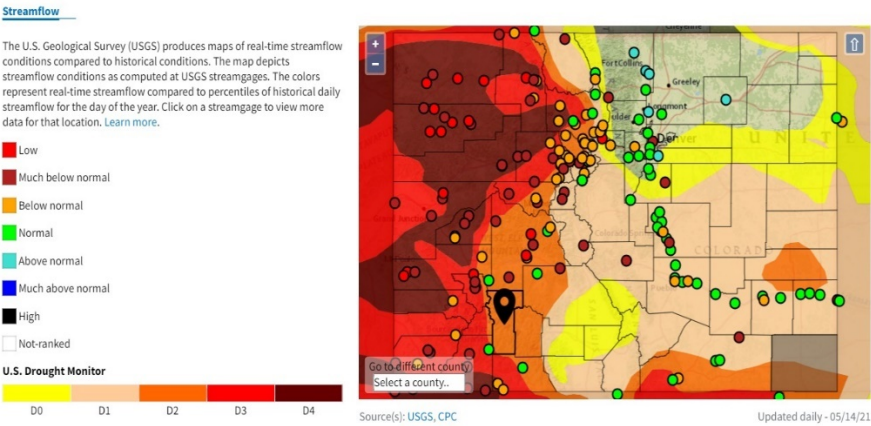
Hinsdale County continues with 99.03% in severe (D2) conditions and .97% in extreme (D3) conditions. In November 2020, Hinsdale County was 60% in extreme (D3), and 40% in exceptional (D4), so there remains an improvement countywide. However, the long-term forecast for Hinsdale County is that drought conditions will persist and much of the county could move into the extreme to exceptional categories. See the graphic below for the long-term county projections.



*Long-Term Drought Forecast - Hinsdale County*

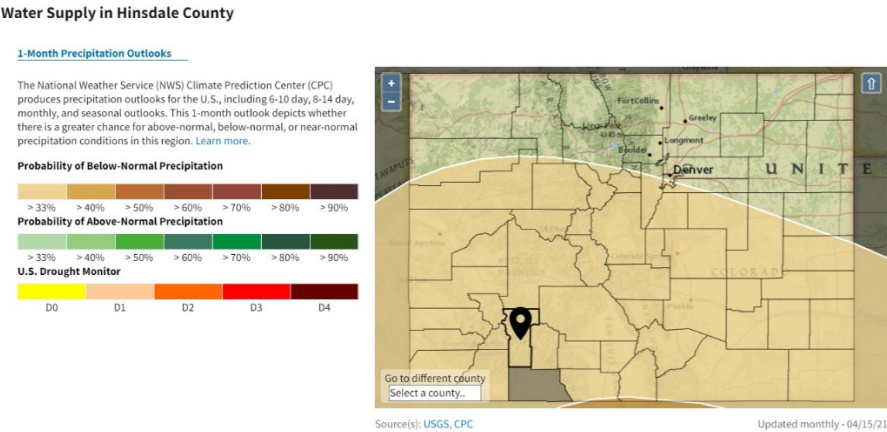
Streamflows in Hinsdale County are also forecasted to be much below normal through the spring and summer. According to the *Drought Monitor* website 40% of streamflow sites are below normal in Colorado. The map below shows the comparison of current streamflow conditions (May 14, 2021) to historical conditions on the same date.

**Water Supply in Hinsdale County**



*Water Supply Forecast - Hinsdale County*

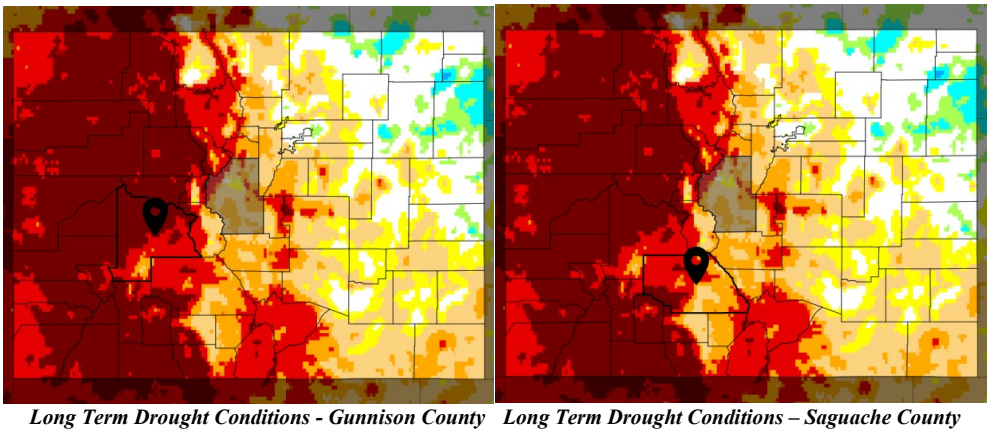
While drought conditions persist and are forecasted to worsen, precipitation in the county is forecasted to remain at below normal levels for the spring and summer and will likely not aid in helping to alleviate drought concerns. The *Drought Monitor* site is forecasting that there is a 33% chance that precipitation in Hinsdale County will continue to be below normal for at least the next 30 days, as reflected in the map below.



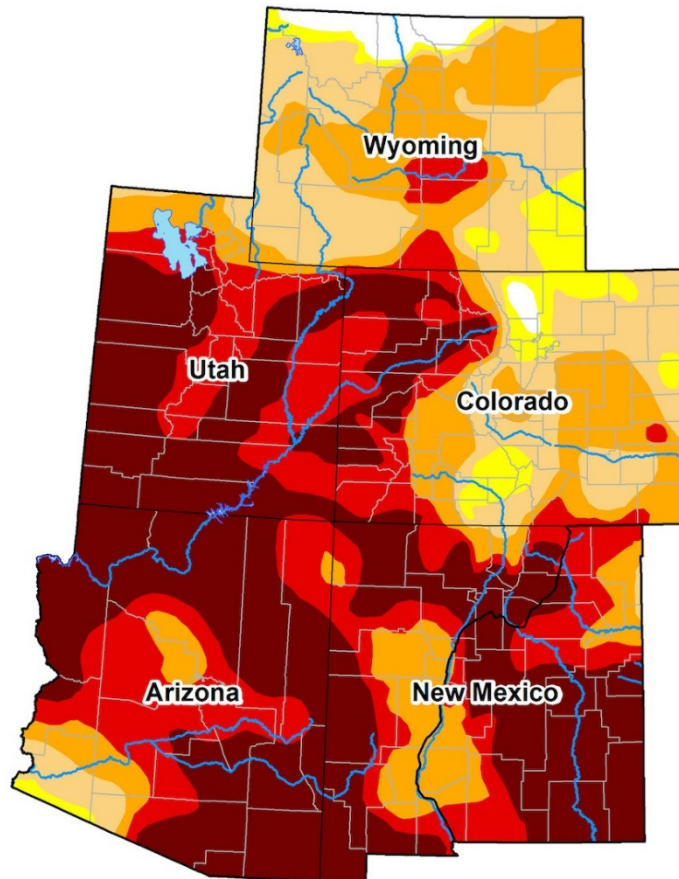
***Precipitation Forecast - 30 Day - Hinsdale County***

Current drought conditions in Hinsdale County seem to be a relatively common occurrence. The historical records show that severe to exceptional (D2 to D4) droughts have occurred in 2002-2004, 2006, 2013, 2015, 2018-2019, and 2020-2021.

Saguache County remains in the same categories as last month, 36% in the abnormally dry (D0) category, 27% in the moderate (D1) category, and 37% in the severe (D2) category. Gunnison County is 3% in the moderate (D1) category, 91% in the severe (D2) category, and 6% in the extreme (D3) category. However, the long-term forecasts for both of these counties indicate that significant areas could return to the D2-D4 categories in large part due to below normal precipitation.



In the Intermountain West region, drought conditions also continue to persist. According to *Drought.gov* (4/20/21), 87% of Arizona remains in extreme to exceptional (D3-D4) categories, 80% of New Mexico is in D3-D4 categories, and 90% of Utah is in D3-D4 categories. Snow drought and early, accelerated snowmelt raise concerns as the summer approaches. The Colorado River Basin snowpack has reached its peak for the season and begun to melt and seasonal snowpack, at its peak, was below average west of the Continental Divide. Below is the current drought map for the Intermountain West region.

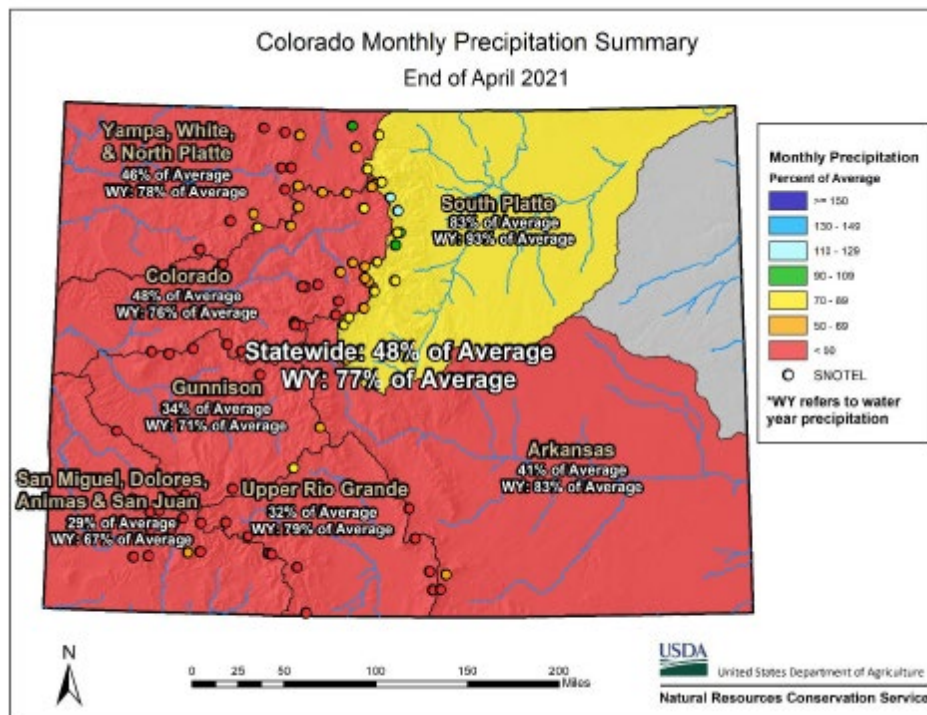


*Intermountain West Region - Drought Conditions*

### **Snowpack Information:**

According to the NRCS news release dated May 10, 2021, precipitation in April ranged from a high of 83% of average in the South Platte River Basin to as low as 29% of average in the combined San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan River Basin. The greatest gains in snowpack occurred in the eastern river basins. Many SNOTEL sites on the western slope recorded low precipitation for April, which along with warmer mountain temperatures have exacerbated already dry conditions. Snowpack has also declined in all basins across the state except the South Platte, due to higher temperatures and below-average precipitation. All basins in the state are below 80% of average for the water year except the South Platte which has 93% of average. See the precipitation map for April below.





*Colorado Monthly Precipitation Summary*

The unseasonably warmer temperatures in the mountains have started melting of the snowpack. The snowpack remained at 71% of average for the water year in the entire Gunnison Basin for April. At the end of April, the Upper Gunnison Basin snowpack was at 69%. The entire state of Colorado is currently at 77% of average which is down from the 82% at the end of March.

Reservoir storage in the entire Gunnison Basin is at 84% of average for the year. The reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison Basin, Taylor Park and Blue Mesa, are at 62% and 42% respectively, which a slight increase in Taylor Park as melting of the snowpack began. With much of the snowpack in many basins already melted out, persistent dry soil conditions, and little chance of heavy precipitation for the spring and early summer, runoff amounts will continue to be low. All basins on the western slope are forecasted to have streamflow volumes between 34% and 73% of average. See Table 2 below for current Upper Gunnison streamflow readings for May 13, 2021.

<b>Streamflow Gage Sites</b>	<b>Amount (CFS)</b>
Gunnison River near Gunnison	267
Gunnison River at Whitewater Park	277
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	35
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	59
Taylor River below Taylor Park	101
Taylor River at Almont	145
Slate River above Baxter Gulch	164
East River below Cement Creek	179
East River at Almont	160
Lake Fork below Lake San Cristobal	91
Lake Fork at Gateview	181

*Table 2: Streamflow - Upper Gunnison Basin*

As a result of the continuing dry conditions, streamflow will likely remain low, and reservoirs will see little recharge in the coming runoff season. The lowest forecasts for streamflow in the state are in the river basins in the Southern San Juan Mountains and the Gunnison River Basin, which are forecasted to range from 36 to 77 percent of average this runoff season.

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

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

- Upper Gunnison Basin Snowpack: 52% of median on this date, 37% seasonal median
- Blue Mesa Forecasted Unregulated Inflows: 556,475 AF (Total 2021, 59% of average)
- Blue Mesa Current Conditions: 348,301 AF Content (42% full)
- Projected Blue Mesa maximum fill: 442,691 AF Content (61% full)
- Projected Blue Mesa conditions as of 12/31/21: 309,439 AF (37% full)



## Taylor Park Reservoir Storage:

The Bureau of Reclamation provided us with the Taylor Park Reservoir update report. The proposed operations plan is based upon May 1, 2021 forecast from the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center. The forecast center is now forecasting approximately 58,260 acre-feet of runoff flowing into the reservoir which is 60% of average. This is a reduction of approximately 10,000 acre-feet from the previous forecast on April 1<sup>st</sup>. This forecast now indicates that the year type is in the dry category and could result in the reservoir only filling to 81,940 acre-feet which is 77% 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. A Taylor Local Users Group meeting was held to discuss Taylor Reservoir operations for 2021 on May 7, 2021 and the group recommended keeping the operations plan the same until the forecasts come out on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The current recommendations are as follow:

- May 1-18: 100 cfs
- May 18-20: quick ramp-up to 200 cfs
- May 20-June 1: 200 cfs
- June 1-15: 250 cfs
- June 15-early July: 300 cfs

## Cloudseeding Report (North American Weather Consultants):

This report provides information about activities conducted by NAWC for April 1-15, 2021. The highlights of the report include a total of 66.5 generator hours used in April, 19 of these were from the remote generators. So far this year there has been 1,630 total generator hours used which included the remote generators. There were two seeding events for the month on April 13-15.

The generator hours and seeding events have resulted in a snow water equivalent accumulation of only .7 which was measured at the Scofield Pass and Idarado sites, as shown in Table 3. As of April 15, 2021 SWE in the Gunnison Basin remains below normal, with a basin-wide (upper and lower) average of 66% of normal and an Upper Basin average of 72% of normal, as shown in Table 4.

Dates	SNOTEL Site					
	Schofield Pass	Park Cone	Porphyry Creek	Cochetopa Pass	Slumgullion	Idarado
April 13-17	.6	0	0	0	0	0
April 15	0	0	0	0	0	.1

*Table 3: SWE Accumulation for April 2021*

Measurement Site	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)		
	As of 4/15/21	Median	Percent of Median
Butte	8.4	13.6	62%
Park Cone	8.0	9.8	82%
Porphyry Creek	11.4	15.5	74%
Scofield Pass	22.3	33.7	66%
Slumgullion	10.9	14.6	75%
<b>Upper Gunnison Basin</b>			<b>72%</b>

*Table 4: Upper Gunnison Basin Snow Water Content by Site*

The seeding program concluded on April 15, 2021. A final report for the program will be provided in the summer.

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*Think Water and Conserve!*

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# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

## **Scientific Endeavors Report**

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Long Lake Stakeholder Work Group Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Gunnison Basin Roundtable Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Gunnison River Festival Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Wet Meadows Update**



## Wet Meadow Restoration Resiliency Building Project Update

Update to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Board May 24, 2021

Paul Jones – Wet Meadow Restoration Coordinator ([tomck2018@gmail.com](mailto:tomck2018@gmail.com), 970 641-1993 cell)

### Planning 2021:

- On May 13, we met with our project partners to plan our field season for Wet Meadow Restoration work here in the Gunnison Basin.
- With \$60,000 from our NFWF Grant and another \$50,000 that the USFWS gave to CPW we will have sufficient funding to hire a five person crew, provide a vehicle and travel money for the 2021 field season, and additional funding for part of 2022.
  - Currently for this field season we have:
    - 10 BLM projects
    - Four USFS projects
    - Six CPW projects
    - Three projects on private land
    - We have an additional four projects, one in San Miguel County, one in Montrose County, one in Mesa County and one outside of Silt in Garfield County.
  - It is our goal to triple our output this year by building up to 570 structures, which should restore 30 acres of wetlands along 9 miles of stream, with the ultimate goal of restoring 420 acres of habitat for sage grouse.

### Grants:

- This spring we assisted the US Fish and Wildlife with two separate grant applications. Neither of these grants required a match.
  - The first resulted in the \$50,000 mentioned above that went directly to CPW through their cost share program to fund the CPW crew.
  - The second, called the State of the Birds Grant requested \$1 Million dollars to be administered by the UGRWCD to greatly increase the volume of work we do in the wet meadow program, jump start the cheatgrass control project in the basin, and assist our federal partners with vegetation monitoring to address concerns raised in the recent lawsuit against the USFWS and the CCA. The grant should have passed the review at the Regional level, and should be submitted to the National Headquarters by May 18. With the new Administration, our partners in the USFWS do not expect to hear back about the grant until late summer or early fall (August/September).
- We were approached by our partners at Defenders of Wildlife, who had been in talk with the Governor's office. They were looking at allocating money from the COVID relief bill that passed congress recently and were asking about conservation programs that might benefit from additional funding. They were told to think big and think bold. They immediately thought of our



program and asked us to help develop a proposal. The ask was for \$1.65 Million. We are awaiting a response to that proposal.

- There are a number of federal grant programs that are seeing a large infusion of money. However, the challenge we face is the limited amount of non-federal match that currently exists. With a typical match requirement of 1:1 for most federal grants we will have to shift our emphasis to chasing non-federal money. George Sibley has graciously agreed to see if he can help us find/apply for such funding.

#### **Outreach:**

- In March, our project was included in an article that appeared in Science News (<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/stream-survival-beaver-dam-simple-structures-wildfires-drought>).
- The BLM National Training Center has asked us to develop a three-day training session for BLM staff Nationwide.
  - This will be a virtual class, that will be taught by various instructors withing the Wet Meadow Project
  - The class will be filmed during the first week of June.
  - Currently 41 people from nine states have signed up to attend the class.
- The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has worked with the USGS to develop a Sagebrush Strategy for the western United States.
  - Part 1 of the strategy was published by the USGS in March (<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20201125>).
  - This will be the “go to bible” for land managers who work with sagebrush systems.
  - Part 2 will focus on sagebrush management and restoration.
  - The editor and chief sagebrush scientist for the project, Tom Remington has approached us and asked to add our project and the collaborative effort behind it to their case studies of successful collaboration for Part II of the Sagebrush Conservation Strategy.
  - We are currently developing the case study for the document.

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

**UGRWCD Demand Management Statement of  
Understanding: Draft Review**

## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

### Statement of Understanding: Demand Management

As part of the Upper Colorado River Basin States' drought contingency planning, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is currently investigating the feasibility of a potential Demand Management program for the state. Demand Management is the concept of temporary, voluntary, and compensated reductions in the consumptive use of water in the Upper Colorado River Basin to assure compliance with the Colorado River Compact. In March 2021, CWCB released the first draft Demand Management Framework, a matrix of options - of Elements of Feasibility - for what a potential program could look like if created. After a review of the Framework, the District's Board of Directors has issued the following response.

The Framework is a useful step in understanding the potential impacts of a Demand Management program; however, despite the comprehensive matrix, the Framework does not adequately address key issues that are important to the District.

#### **Funding**

Funding is the most challenging obstacle to a Demand Management program in Colorado. The Framework provides general concepts and a range of annual costs from \$3million to \$30 million. To make progress on a program within a reasonable time, the annual cost must be established with more certainty and a funding source specifically identified.

#### **Equity**

CWCB has declared its policy to:

“Prioritize avoidance of disproportionate negative economic or environmental impacts to any single subbasin or region within Colorado while protecting the legal rights of water rights holders. The Board will work with water rights holders and stakeholders to assess the feasibility of and promote mechanisms for obtaining roughly proportionate contributions of water consumptively used from the Colorado River System to a Demand Management program over a given timeframe from participants on each side of the Continental Divide.”<sup>1</sup>

The framework does not address how the state can assure that an entirely voluntary program will be equitable and proportional across the state. Determining how this inconsistency will be resolved is critical to a successful program.

#### **Agricultural Impacts**

The Framework analysis of field requirements is focused entirely on “crops” – cultivated plants - with no discussion addressing irrigated hay meadows that is the only type of commercial

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<sup>1</sup> *Support and Policy Statements Regarding Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans, Demand Management and Compact Administration*, November 15, 2018.

agriculture in the Upper Gunnison Basin. Reduced consumptive use for a hay meadow involves consequences that are different from cultivated crops. This observation is true for a significant portion of West Slope agriculture, so further analysis is needed.

The Framework contains a thoughtful discussion of how to address secondary impacts that are the result of a Demand Management program. Beyond that, however, CWCB needs to make a firm commitment that compensation to agricultural participants will not be limited to loss of income from the crop not produced.

## **Legal**

The Framework does not address the legal obstacles that a Demand Management program faces, among them shepherding, beneficial use, and integration with the priority system. Although this was intentional, as part of the feasibility analysis, CWCB must expand the Framework and identify the legal obstacles and propose a method to overcome them. A matrix of methods will not suffice.

## **Compact Administration**

Compact administration is the responsibility of the State Engineer. Nevertheless, CWCB must work with the State Engineer to define a no-action alternative. Understanding that alternative is essential to a water user's decision to participate in a Demand Management program. The State Engineer has suggested that Basin Measurement Rules as a first step in evaluating Compact administration. The District supports this approach.

## **Next Steps**

The Framework only briefly addresses how the "building blocks" will be assembled, or by whom, and when. Process considerations need to be expanded to provide a definite plan for refining the Framework to a structure for a Demand Management program.

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

## **Miscellaneous Matters**

# Reports

## Monthly Energy Production Report

Generated for Beverly Richards  
on 05/14/2021

### UGRWCD

Gunnison, CO

This report provides energy production for May.

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
05/01/2021 - 05/07/2021	5.92 kW	265 kWh
05/08/2021 - 05/14/2021	5.92 kW	253 kWh
05/15/2021 - 05/21/2021	0 W	0 Wh
05/22/2021 - 05/28/2021	0 W	0 Wh
05/29/2021 - 05/31/2021	0 W	0 Wh
May 2021 Total:		518 kWh
Previous Month Total:		1.22 MWh
Year to Date:		3.76 MWh
Lifetime Production:		18.2 MWh

Your **Carbon Offset** for this month: 788.0 lbs

You have offset the equivalent of: **9 Trees**



Daily Summary for Month --> **May** **2021**

Annual Summary (all values in ac-ft) Note: Reservoir content is the end of the month content																																					
	(days)	(days)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)		
Nov	30	0	30,515	0	28,715	0	67,442	4,924	4,481	67,442	0	0	0	843	222	843	0	399,781	106,936	16,429	4,185	24,337	26,406	18,059			23,965	372	372	0	0	0	0	0	0	85,501	
Dec	31	0	24,971	0	25,163	0	66,344	4,942	3,845	66,344	0	0	0	877	72	877	0	400,682	107,796	16,531	1,862	24,912	21,832	23,002			24,207	705	705	0	0	0	0	0	0	89,346	
Jan	31	0	23,541	0	23,447	0	65,060	4,835	3,550	65,060	0	0	0	838	4	838	0	403,977	105,808	15,616	392	24,930	20,487	27,836			24,433	497	497	0	0	0	0	0	0	92,896	
Feb	28	0	22,316	0	22,362	0	63,703	4,592	3,235	63,703	0	0	0	978	141	978	0	404,821	106,265	15,743	1,428	22,658	19,493	32,429			22,245	413	413	0	0	0	0	0	0	96,132	
Mar	31	0	19,920	0	20,138	0	62,086	5,292	3,674	62,086	0	0	0	1,222	244	1,222	0	402,873	104,456	15,717	-3,782	36,809	27,735	37,697			25,319	11,490	11,466	23	0	0	0	0	0	99,783	
Apr	30	0	12,399	7,436	12,359	7,141	63,629	5,262	6,805	63,629	0	0	0	3,087	1,865	3,087	0	368,899	102,598	16,853	-34,696	87,415	49,017	32,413			36,556	50,859	40,313	2,515	0	0	0	8,031	0	96,042	
May	13	0						2,369														41,370						16,628	24,743								
Jun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Jul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Sep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	194	0	133,661	7,436	132,185	7,141		32,216	25,592					2,548								-30,611	262,430	164,969			173,352	89,078	53,766	2,539	0	0	0	8,031	0		
Min	0	0	0	0	0	0	62,086	0	0	62,086	0	0	0	838	0	838	0	368,899	102,598	15,616	-34,696	0	0	0	23,002		36,556	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89,346
	31	0	24,971	7,436	25,163	7,141	66,344	5,292	6,805	66,344	0	0	0	3,087	1,865	3,087	0	404,821	107,796	16,853	1,862	87,415	49,017	37,697			36,556	50,859	40,313	2,515	0	0	0	8,031	0	99,783	

**APRIL 27, 2021**

**CITY OF GUNNISON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION**

**5:30 P.M.**

The City Council Regular Session meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Jim Gelwicks with Mayor Pro Tem Jim Miles, Councilor Boe Freeburn, Councilor Mallory Logan, Councilor Diego Plata present in Council Chambers along with City Manager Russ Forrest, City Clerk Erica Boucher and City Attorney Kathy Fogo. There were no online attendees.

**CMAR Selection for Septage Receiving Station Improvements.** Water and Wastewater Superintendent Mike Rogers shared with Council that Public Works favored using a construction manager at-risk (CMAR) for the City's RV dump station improvement project. The department wants to have the work completed this fall. A Request for Qualification (RFQ) for a CMAR was issued to engage pre-construction services on April 8, 2021. The RFQ generated two responses. Staff recommended Hydro Construction based on their qualifications and the previous work they did with the City and the UV issues at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The City negotiated a price for pre-construction services and construction at 30%, 60%, and 90% for \$9,194. City Manager Forrest contributed that the dump station has been used freely for many years and that created a direct threat to the WWTP. The new system would create a specific plan for commercial haulers and use and pay would be based on volume. The cost to recreational vehicles would be minimal. This project requires a long lead time for the equipment. The CMAR would help protect the City and get a maximum guaranteed price. Construction would occur in late September or early October. Staff is confident that this expense would pay for itself in a few years. This new system also monitors what can be deposited into the WWTP and if it is not appropriate the value would shut off to protect the WWTP. Portable water would also be available. After Council expressed concern about the timing of the construction, Superintendent Rogers explained that the construction time is fairly short and staff is researching ways to keep the dump station in operation during construction.

Councilor Logan moved and Councilor Freeburn seconded the motion to authorize the pre-construction services of Hydro Construction Co. in the amount of \$9,194.00.

Roll call, yes: Plata, Freeburn, Miles, Gelwicks, and Logan. So carried.

Roll call, no: None.

**Community Survey Discussion.** Council discussed the inclusion of new ballot initiative questions. Staff is working with Western to distribute an online version of the survey before they depart for summer break. Council discussed a few questions that asked specifically about the City's entrances and commercial areas to get direct responses from residents. It was suggested to ask a question about residents' interest in putting forth a Dark Skies ordinance or policy to address lighting. Council's goal is to learn as much as possible from the survey on services, priorities, and possible ballot initiatives. Council also discussed the inclusion of one or two questions directly related to COVID-19 and the vaccine to help determine what or if the communication holes are when the valley is trying to communicate with everyone. Using their feedback, Council directed staff to proceed with revisions and finalize of the survey for distribution.

**Discussion on Safety Infrastructure CDOT Grant.** City Engineer Cody Tusing returned to Council to discuss the City's potential to apply for an Opportunity 1 Safety Infrastructure CDOT grant for up to \$2 million dollars. Staff suggested applying for a grant to complete another phase of Ohio Avenue to assist with multimodal connectivity. Currently, the City doesn't have enough funding to complete the project down to 11<sup>th</sup> Street. At this time, the City can only reach Spruce.





DINOSAUR  
TRACKS ON  
A TREK TO  
WESTERN  
NEWS, A23

# GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES

50¢  
Vol. 140, No. 17  
Thursday,  
April 29,  
2021

SPORTS A17

OPINION A25-A29

CLASSIFIEDS A30-A33

OBITUARIES A3

ONLINE GUNNISONTIMES.COM



## Extended stays

Maria Diaz (with her daughter Leslie) temporarily lived in an extended-stay motel and spent nearly two years looking for stable housing in Gunnison before finally landing a spot in a mobile home park. Many Gunnison families remain stuck at motels with no other housing options. Read more on A6

Luna Anna Archey

## Mutual aid key to fire season

Local leaders update BOCC on mitigation

Kate Gienapp  
Times Staff Writer

Local firefighters are warning this upcoming season will be as bad if not worse than last year across the West.

Gunnison County Commissioners were updated on the status of the Gunnison Basin and projections for this year's fire season during a work session this past week.

According to Forest Service Assistant Fire Management Officer Jim Ramirez, local resources responded to 19 wildfires in 2020, from May 7 through Nov. 3.

The majority of those fires were small, measuring less than an acre — but workers on the ground are preparing county leaders for potentially bigger burns. When that does happen, Gunnison County will need to rely on regional partners to keep the flames at bay.

This past year, there were three significant fires for Gunnison County including three acres that burned at Mill Creek in August, the eight-acre Coal Creek Fire in November and the Poison Fire, which burned approximately 105 acres.

Forest Service District Ranger Matt McCombs said if and when a large fire starts in Gunnison County, regional partners will play a key role in mitigation, especially amidst a pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged teams this past year as they managed the deadly virus and record-breaking fires in Colorado and across the West.

"I'll tell you, it's remarkably  
Fire management A14

## RV dump station riles leaders county-wide

Improvements to Gunnison station slated for this fall

Kate Gienapp  
Times Staff Writer

Gunnison County committees, boards and town councils have all been talking about one thing in recent weeks — and that's where people should dispose of waste.

Waste disposal has long been a hot topic in the Gunnison Valley as more people play on

RV dump A9

## Sidewalk or no sidewalk?



Kate Gienapp

City leaders are contemplating whether or not sidewalks should be installed in the Palisades neighborhood in the City of Gunnison.

City leaders contemplate Palisades neighborhood

Kate Gienapp  
Times Staff Writer

Gunnison City Council this week was pleasantly surprised to learn of a bidding error that more than doubled the price for street improvements and sidewalks in the Palisades neighborhood. But city leaders are now questioning whether sidewalks in the area are worth the splurge.

"If you think sidewalks in Palisades are important, we will probably never get a better price," said City Engineer Cody Tusing.

Gunnison City Council this week was alerted to a bid-

Sidewalks A10

inside  
today

SHADY ISLAND TO OPEN  
FOR BOATERS  
NEWS, A8

COUNTY OFFERS WALK-IN  
VACCINES  
NEWS, A10

SPRING  
GARDENING TIPS  
NEWS, A20

# GHS prom, graduation a go

Seniors get to celebrate mostly like normal

Chris Dickey  
Times Publisher

This year, the prom will go on for Gunnison High School (GHS) students. So will graduation.

After months of planning by school administrators, student leaders, county health officials and others, the two signature end-of-year school events have been given the green light. Last year, prom was canceled outright and graduation was altered to a virtual ceremony and then a unique parade through town as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

GHS' prom will be held this Friday night at the outdoor I Bar Ranch concert and event venue. An in-person graduation ceremony will be held Sunday, May 16, at Western Colorado University's Mountaineer Bowl.

"I'm so thrilled to be able to have these events," said GHS Principal Jim Woytek. "There are plenty of schools out there that aren't able to have either one."

Woytek commended Gunnison County officials, saying "they've been amazing to work with" in granting the school approval for hosting the large, in-person events.

He thanked Western officials for their willingness to host graduation in their football stadium; typically GHS utilizes the Paul Wright Gym for the ceremony.

And he applauded GHS' Student Council, Senior Class Advisor Shana Benson and Assistant Principal Robin Wilkinson who worked together to formulate the plans and present them to the county for approval.

"The time and effort they've put in to make sure we not only can have gatherings, but do so in a safe manner has been phenomenal," he said.

For graduation, each GHS senior is allowed to have eight family members or friends attend the ceremony on their behalf. Spectators will be admitted to Mountaineer Bowl via a ticketing system.

"I'm super excited. I didn't think we would get to have that many spectators," said GHS Senior Class President Madison Hadley. "My one hope was that I could walk with my classmates for graduation, and not do it virtually. I think that was a goal for

a lot of us students. The fact that we get to have eight spectators there is the cherry on top."

The May 16 graduation will begin at 10 a.m., as opposed to the traditional 2 p.m. start time, in hopes of avoiding spring-time winds that tend to pick up in the afternoon. Woytek apologized that the earlier time conflicts with church services.

Outside of social distancing requirements and some pre-recorded performances, including from the school band and choir, it will be a pretty traditional graduation ceremony.

For prom, students will not be allowed to drive to the I Bar themselves. There will be a bus shuttle every 20 minutes from the high school parking lot, with the last bus leaving the I Bar at 11:15 p.m.

Hadley said entertainment for the evening will consist of a pre-selected musical playlist, as well as a set of tunes spun by senior J.T. Van Hee, known as "DJ Dude."

Crested Butte Community School is planning a similar outdoor graduation ceremony up-valley, and will also hold a prom at the I Bar.

(Chris Dickey can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or publisher@gunnisontimes.com.)

## No Gunnison Tunnel call this summer

Authorities signal call is unlikely and would not be enforced

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

Gunnison Valley irrigators can breathe a sigh of relief: Despite low snowpack and low reservoir storage, Uncompahgre Valley water users say they will not demand more water out of the Gunnison River.

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District General Manager Sonja Chavez told the district's board this week that she had received communication from the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) and from the state Division of Water Resources. The water users association's general manager Steve Anderson said that the UVWUA would not be placing a Gunnison Tunnel call.

During a drought, a Gunnison Tunnel call requires that water users in the Gunnison Valley turn off headgates or otherwise reduce their water use. Junior users have to turn off their diversions first,

and water use is reduced until UVWUA users receive the water to which they are entitled under Colorado Law. The UVWUA owns rights to the Gunnison Tunnel, which diverts water out of the Gunnison River as it flows through the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Those rights date to 1913, meaning that water rights junior to that date in the Gunnison Valley are potentially vulnerable to being shut off.

Making a call even more unlikely, the DWR signalled that it would not enforce a Gunnison Tunnel call this year. DWR engineers "confirmed that they have been studying Aspinall Unit Operational releases for several years and have spoken with the Attorney General's Office and determined that if UVWUA placed a call, DWR would not honor it," Chavez said in an email to stakeholders this week.

"The reason for this is associated with the way the Bureau of Reclamation releases water out of Aspinall Unit in order to comply with Gunnison River flow targets at Whitewater, Colorado, as part of the 2012 Re-Operations Record of Decision. DWR indicated that as long as the UVWUA had water flowing over their Gunnison Tunnel diversion that is legally available for appropriation, a Gunnison Tunnel Call would not be honored," Chavez stated.

The 2012 Re-Operations Record of Decision stemmed from pressure on the federal Bureau of Reclamation, which operates Blue Mesa Dam, to provide enough water for endangered fish downstream.

"This is good news for water users in the Upper Gunnison Basin and is something the Upper Gunnison District has been arguing for years," Chavez said.

The policy decisions surrounding the Gunnison Tunnel, and the preclusion of a call this summer, means that the Upper Gunnison will not pursue purchasing water storage in Blue Mesa Reservoir, according to Chavez. The Upper Gunnison made such a purchase in 2013, buying 4,500 acre feet of water for \$202,000. The buffer of water delayed a call on Gunnison Valley water users for about 13 days, the Upper Gunnison determined in a recent analysis.

With those findings, Chavez said the Upper Gunnison was leaning away from purchasing Blue Mesa storage even if there was the chance of a Gunnison Tunnel call this year. But the assurances from the UVWUA and the DWR make more certain that the taxpayer-funded Upper Gunnison will not throw money down the drain — or in this case, the tunnel — this summer.



# NOW HIRING

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## Colorado Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)

is a federally funded program that helps eligible hard working Colorado families, seniors and individuals pay a portion of their winter home heating costs.

Stay warm this winter, call Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services to apply at 970.641.3244



LEAP

**Gunnison  
County**



**K-12 PE/Health Teacher JOB POSTING**

Hinsdale County School District RE-1  
Lake City, Colorado | [www.lakecityschool.org](http://www.lakecityschool.org)

Dates of employment: Aug. '21 - June '22. 4-day school week (Tues-Fri). 75 FTE position; salary based on education and experience; benefits include 100% health/dental/life, 150-day contract, 8 personal days, full credit for full year

**JOB OBJECTIVE:**

Teach all graders K-12 PE, MS/HS Health and HS Personal Finance classes based on Colorado Academic Standards

**TO APPLY:** Please submit a cover letter, application form (available on our website [www.lakecityschool.org](http://www.lakecityschool.org)), and resume including contact information for three references to Shawn Arthur, Administrative Assistant by email: [shawn@lakecityschool.org](mailto:shawn@lakecityschool.org) or mail: PO Box 39, Lake City, CO 81235.



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Bella Biondini

The soon-to-open Shady Island River Park north of Gunnison will have two boat ramps, one for hand-launched craft and another for larger craft hauled by trailers.

## Shady island to launch in June

### Campground to open in 2022

Bella Biondini  
Special to the Times

Boaters will soon be able to say "goodbye" to the crowded North Bridge put-in and hello to a safer and more spacious access point.

Gunnison County's Shady Island River Park will open by early summer, county leaders say. The boat ramp and parking lot will be accessible to the public by June. Campsites will open next summer.

The river park is located just north of Garlic Mike's restaurant on the east side of Hwy. 135. The 10.5-acre park will include parking, 19 overnight tent camping sites, a camp host, a picnic area, flush restrooms, a trail loop and recreation path, fishing access, a boat staging area, access for non-boaters and a boat queue area.

"We had hoped to open in the spring, but there has been a little bit of a delay just in wrapping up the details with the roads and paving," said Gunnison County Sustainable Operations Manager John Cattles. "The crux of the project was getting the river work done,

and we did finish that on time."

The area will include two put-ins, one for light crafts and the other for trailers. The new launch site is hardened to avoid erosion, a big upgrade from the bare banks of the North Bridge site.

In addition to erosion prevention, the project also included habitat improvements within the river. County leaders collaborated with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to create boulder clusters to enhance fish habitat.

"We are trying to protect our riverbank and our resources," Cattles said. "It's the difference between people using a space that was convenient and an intentional development."

The North Bridge access and parking area has long been an issue. Community Development Director Cathie Pagano described two major problems the new site will solve.

"The existing North Bridge put-in, is, one, not a permitted site from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) or the county and, two, does not have any infrastructure, no parking organization, and there's no paving or established infrastructure," Pagano said.

She said her hope and expectation is people will utilize the new site and that boaters will refrain from using the North

Bridge site. CDOT may need to actively prohibit its operation, she said.

Gunnison County currently does not have the authority to close the old site, Cattles said. The North Bridge put-in will remain open until the county is notified otherwise by CDOT.

The Shady Island project was designed to be as low impact as possible, Cattles said. The road into the park predates the county's acquisition of the property, so project managers built on what was already there. Construction workers avoided cutting down trees and disturbing vegetation.

The remaining work included paving and finishing the parking lot and realigning the road entrance to the north. Work crews will install campsites this summer after the completion of restrooms.

Cattles said he was pleased with improvements of the new park compared to the North Bridge.

The launch will not only be a more sustainable place for boaters to access the river, but a public park with amenities.

"We just don't have as many access points I think a lot of people would expect," Cattles said. "For a town that has a river flowing through it, we need more."

## GUNNISON ARTS CENTER

Open: Tuesday - Friday, 10:00am - 6:00pm.  
102 S. Main St | (970) 641-4029  
www.GunnisonArtsCenter.org

### EVENTS

## ROLLING SPOKES

Bicycle-Themed Community Event

Staggered Start Times 4-5pm  
\$12 entry | \$12 GAC members | All Ages

Awesome Bike Prizes! EASY Bike Themed Art Project

MAY 7, 2021

## FIRST FRIDAY ARTWALK & MUSIC

Summer's FIRST  
Friday, May 7, 5-8 pm  
The Gunnison Arts Center will  
have gallery openings and  
"Rolling Spokes". See you there!

## GUNNISON FIRST FRIDAY art walk & MUSIC

A COMMUNITY  
TRADITION 5-8 PM

### EDUCATION

Kid's camps are live online and open for registration. Full registration will open online and in person next week! Check your mailboxes or local eateries and coffee houses for our Summer 2021 Catalog. Make your summer sparkle with the arts!

### IN THE GALLERIES

Show Dates: April 2 - 30  
Main Gallery: Gunnison High School Excellence Exhibit  
Upper Gallery: "A Schoolhouse is for Kids"  
Ideas about school design by 1-6 year old children

## Give us your best shot!

The Times is always seeking compelling photographs from around the Gunnison Valley to be showcased in our special publications.



Send your photo submissions to morgan@gunnisontimes.com by the end of April for a chance to be featured in one or more of our magazines!

GUNNISON COUNTRY  
TIMES

## RV dump

from A1

public lands. That's left county leaders scrambling to install bathrooms at trailheads and provide places where RVs can dispose of waste.

At the north end of the valley near Crested Butte, there is only one RV dump station. Or, at least, there was.

Crested Butte Town Council voted April 5 to immediately close the town's dump station. The station, located in the Paradise Park neighborhood, has been a cause of safety concerns for neighbors. But other community members have spoken in favor of keeping the site open to avoid a potential increase in illegal dumping in the backcountry.

Gunnison County Manager Matthew Birnie expressed frustration with Crested Butte's decision to close the station, calling the decision "another unfortunate example of a preference to export the impacts of their tourism industry's impacts down valley."

County Commissioner Jonathan Houck said he was upset at the lack of collaboration between stakeholders during a conversation he had with Crested Butte Town Council on April 19.

"When the issue of neighborhood concerns was first brought to STOR about six months ago, all of the partners agreed it needed to be addressed," Houck



The RV dump station outside the City of Gunnison will be upgraded this fall. .

Kate Gienapp

said. "This isn't like deciding where to place picnic tables or flower boxes. Moving infrastructure takes time."

Houck said council's decision makes it a more difficult lift for the regional partners.

"And the perception of the messaging coming from the town, whether intentional or not, is 'thanks but no thanks, 'Just take it down to Gunnison,'" Houck said.

The Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) committee on April 22 discussed the impacts of town council's decision. The STOR committee has been at the helm of many of the county's waste

problems and recently formed a waste management subcommittee to find county-wide solutions. Joey Carpenter, who heads the subcommittee, said the group was disappointed with the lack of communication and subsequent closure of the dump station.

"It was rather unfortunate timing with how everything worked out," Carpenter said. "There were definitely some frustrations that occurred after they decided to close the RV dump station."

"There were some discussions at town council and during our subcommittee meetings that were, at times, tense,"

Carpenter said. "There were some feelings that the Town of CB is wiping their hands of the dump station issues."

Crested Butte Town Council may reconsider its decision to close the Paradise Park dump station in May.

Gunnison City Council members are also working to upgrade the RV dump station located near the west entrance of town by the airport.

"We've had kind of a free for all with our dump station," said Mike Rogers of Public Works.

Commercial users have been the culprit for illicit dumping at the RV dump station, threatening the city's wastewater treat-

ment capabilities.

The upgraded station will have specific lanes for commercial haulers where they would then pay based on volumes.

City Manager Russ Forrest said the charge would be a nominal fee of \$5.

The upgraded RV dump station will be installed this fall, but council members agreed to begin contracts with JVA Engineers to provide the civil design for improvements to the station. Hydro Construction will serve as the construction manager at risk and perform pre-construction.

The improvements will consist of a new septic receiving station for commercial haulers, RV dump charge station and a water fill station. All of these improvements will automate billing and improve water quality heading to the wastewater treatment plant.

Rogers said the contracts will be finalized this spring to ensure vital equipment can be shipped in time to complete the project this fall. The plan is to get ahead of what could be continued delays due to COVID-19.

Construction is anticipated to begin in September this year.

"Unfortunately I don't think that solves the valley problem or whole community problem, and I know that," Rogers said.

(Kate Gienapp can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or kate@gunnisontimes.com.)

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## County reviews water speculation



Agricultural water users have a lot at stake as the state looks at retooling existing anti-speculation laws.

Kate Gienapp



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## Curry briefs commissioners on 'touchy topic'

Kate Gienapp  
Times Staff Writer

Should New York hedge funders be able to buy up water in Gunnison County? And if not, who gets a final say?

Colorado River District's Kathleen Curry discussed the downsides of overregulation as well as concerns of outside influence on the county's water supply during an update to Gunnison County Commissioners on April 14.

This past year, Colorado lawmakers expressed similar worry over private investment in the state's most precious resource.

Last December, the Department of Natural Resources formally created an 18-member Anti-Speculation Law Work Group whose objective is to explore ways to strengthen current Colorado water anti-speculation law.

Colorado water law prohibits "speculation" by requiring water to be used for a beneficial purpose. While individual landowners own water rights, they must put water to "beneficial use."

Those ideas date back to the 1860s. Water in the state must be put to beneficial use for purposes like municipal and commercial needs, irrigation and fire suppression.

Water rights are based on an idea called "prior appropriation." That means the oldest water rights, or senior rights are guaranteed first dibs. Water rights can then be transferred, leased and sold so long

as the use is determined to be beneficial.

The newly formed work group arose out of passage of Senate Bill 20-048. Sponsored by Senators Kerry Donovan, the directive was signed by Gov. Jared Polis on March 11, 2021. The group will report their findings to the Interim Legislative Water Resources Review committee by Aug. 15, regarding any recommendations.

**"You have people that are thinking about their water rights portfolio as a 401K — as their future, and there are other people that are going to ask, 'Is there anything we can do about hedge funds purchasing agricultural lands and water?'"**

Kathleen Curry

"You can see both sides," Curry said. "Who's a good buyer and who isn't?"

The Colorado River District's Peter Fleming is a member of the work group and has sought the input of the River District board of directors on this issue.

Commissioner Jonathan Houck agreed the discussion is a touchy topic, especially for Gunnison Valley water users.

"This gets into that private property right discus-

sion which really gets people's blood boiling," Houck said.

Some water rights owners may prefer little oversight into who they're selling to, while others may see more value in updated regulations, Curry said.

Curry said the discussion isn't limited to agricultural water use.

"A municipal provider could say, 'Well if the market for water continues to go up then we have to pay more when we buy water to make sure you can meet developmental needs,'" Curry said. The increase of private water values could then push up prices for residential users in city limits and add a hefty price tag to future growth.

Curry said there's room to be respectful of both sides. "What I'm trying to give you the heads up on is that you have both points of view in the county — you have people that are thinking about their water rights portfolio as a 401K — as their future, and there are other people that are going to ask, 'Is there anything we can do about hedge funds purchasing agricultural lands and water?'" No one wants to lose our ag industry to hedge funds but finding a solution that respects private property rights is the challenge," Curry said.

"The foundation of land use in Gunnison County is based on keeping ag viable, intact and all the landscape to be a productive economic driver," Houck said. "How the water is connected to the land becomes a huge integral part of that — it's a fine line to walk."

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



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# Spring Creek Reservoir to be drained this summer

CPW addressing "safety deficiencies" with outlet pipe

Stephanie Maltarich  
Special to the Times

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) plans to drain Spring Creek Reservoir this summer to address several maintenance concerns.

During the Taylor Local User Group's meeting on April 8, Taylor Scott, a dam safety engineer, explained CPW's plans for a dam rehabilitation project that will take place this coming summer. The rehabilitation project will address outlet pipe "safety deficiencies."

"We would like to start drawing down the reservoir in mid-May depending on how quickly we could get up there," said Scott.

Reaching the outlet pipe requires fully draining the reservoir to deadpool. About 1,400

acre-feet of water in the 1,600 acre-foot impoundment would be pumped out of the reservoir and into the concrete spillway.

In addition to adding a lining to repair the pipe, CPW also plans to add equipment for remote monitoring of the reservoir.

Construction is anticipated to begin on Aug. 1, and will last approximately 90 days.

Scott explained that a full breach of the dam would not be necessary, but a dry reservoir is needed to safely access the outlet pipe.

Draining the reservoir will also impact stream flow, into Spring Creek and the Taylor River. Stream flows will remain steady around 50-60 cubic feet per second (cfs) through June due to snowmelt. In July, flows will likely trickle down to 20 cfs as the reservoir completely drains.

The working group discussed the impacts the project would have on recreational and agricultural users of the Taylor River Watershed.

Don Sabrowski, manager of Wilder on the Taylor, asked if it would be possible to delay the draining start date to late May or early June while still meeting the



Katy Mooney

The paddleboarding season at Spring Creek reservoir will be short lived this summer as Colorado Parks and Wildlife plans to drain the lake to make repairs.

Aug. 1 deadline.

Scott explained that CPW is flexible with the start date. "We do have a contingency plan, in case we needed to back it up a little bit. We can make it work."

Andy Spann, a longtime Gunnison rancher, said a delayed start date would be better for irrigation.

"I would like to have some backup in those first two weeks in July, because that's the hard time for us trying to get every last drop out there to finish your crop. It would help," Spann said.

For boaters, draining the reservoir will give a boost to the rapids and the river running fun on the Taylor River. More water usually equals better conditions for rafting and kayaking.

Mark Schumacher of Three Rivers Resort said draining the reservoir will have a positive effect, but he was concerned for those needing water for agriculture. His vote was to start draining on a date that was most helpful for agriculture interests.

"It's unfortunate they have to drain it," Schumacher said. "But

it needs to get done."

"I think that's something we can do and that is one reason we wanted to have this discussion. We can make it work if we start releasing in June or late May. So if that helps out, we can do that," said Scott.

The project will be completed in mid-October, and CPW plans to begin refilling the reservoir as soon as possible, with the majority of the refill taking place next spring during runoff.



Bella Blondini

## Easy Jim at Doubleshot

The past few weeks have seen a revival in live music in Gunnison. The band Easy Jim got in on the action with a performance at Doubleshot Cyclerly.

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

## Pumping up fear along the Colorado River

Some Colorado River tribulations today remind me of a folk story: A young man went to visit his fiancé and found the family trembling and weeping. They pointed to the ceiling, where an axe was embedded in a rafter.

"That could fall," the father quavered. "It could kill someone!"

Puzzled, the young man climbed onto a chair, and pulled the axe out of the rafter. Everyone fell all over themselves thanking him. But he quickly broke off the engagement, concerned that such inanity might be inheritable.

This resembles ongoing dithering over the 1922 Colorado River Compact, a 99-year-old agreement among the seven states through which the Colorado River meanders, on how the consumptive use of the river's water should be divided to give each state a fair share. The agreement was necessary to get federal participation (money) to build dams to control the erratic river.

The best they were able to do, given the sketchy information they had about each state's future development and also about the flow of the river, was to divide the river into two "basins" around the natural divide of the Colorado River canyons: Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico in the Upper Basin; and California, Arizona and Nevada in the Lower Basin. Each basin would get to consume 7.5 million



**George Sibley**  
Writers on the  
Range

acre-feet of the river's water.

This placed a responsibility on the Upper Basin states to "not cause the flow of the river at Lees Ferry (the measuring point in the canyons) to be depleted" below the Lower Basin's share.

A generous reading of that lawyerly clause in the Compact would say the upper states should just be careful that their water development doesn't dip into the lower states' allocation.

A less generous reading would say that if for any reason the flow at Lees Ferry fell below the average of 7.5 million acre feet — whether due to over-appropriation by the upper states, or to a natural cause like a 20-year headwaters drought — the lower states would place a call on the upper states, which would have to cut their own uses and send their water downriver, whether they "caused" the shortage or not. To maintain that flow in a drought, the upper states would bear the full pain of the drought for the whole river.

Guess which interpretation the upper states chose for their own 1948 compact? Never mind that a Compact called led by California for its share of water is nowhere mentioned in the 1922 Compact. The axe was planted in the rafter.

They might better have asked how the 1922 Compact creators themselves envisioned the unknown future. The transcripts of the 27 Compact meetings show that the seven state commissioners and their federal chairman Herbert Hoover were concerned, as late as their 21st meeting, that they did not know enough about the river's flows to make a permanent equitable division of the waters.

Hoover summarized their concern, and their intent: "We make now, for lack of a better word, a temporary equitable division," leaving the further apportionment of the river's use "to the hands of those men who may come after us, possessed of a far greater fund of information." They even included in the Compact (Article VI) instructions for reconvening to consider "claims or controversy... over the meaning or performance of any of the terms of this compact."

By the drought years of the 1930s, it was already obvious that the 7.5 million-acre-foot Compact allocations were unrealistic. That would have been a logical time for the upper states to pull the axe out of the rafter, before the river was so fully

developed.

But they didn't, and as the Compact began to take on the aura of something carved in stone on a holy mountain, the fear of the "Compact call" gradually descended into expensive paranoia.

The vastly expensive 24 million acre-feet of storage in Powell Reservoir just upstream from Lees Ferry was created there to fulfill the Upper Basin's self-assumed "delivery obligation," come hell or low water.

But now, hellish low water has come to Powell, and Upper states are developing costly "demand management" programs whereby someone yet unspecified would pay ranchers to fallow fields so their water can be "banked" in Powell against the dreaded "Compact call."

The seven states are now — finally — initiating negotiations on a more reality-based governance of the Colorado River. Let's hope they have the good sense to pull that axe out of the rafters before negotiating fair water use under it.

*(George Sibley is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively discussion about Western issues. He has written extensively about the Colorado River. He lives in Gunnison and is a former board member of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.)*

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

## Bumper crops of youngsters mark the 2020 wildlife year in Gunnison

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is continuously monitoring big game populations. One of the primary population metrics surveyed each year is the ratio of young of the year (fawns, calves, lambs) to the number of adult females. Using mule deer as an example, this ratio is expressed as the number of fawns per 100 does. The 2020 biological year for local big game populations is truly a year to celebrate.

The Gunnison pronghorn population, which usually has some of the lowest fawn:doe ratios in the state, and averages around 30 fawns per 100 does during annual August surveys, came in at 40 fawns per 100 does pre-hunt 2020. Elk calf ratios throughout much of the Gunnison Basin were above average. In the three populations surrounding Gunnison, calf ratios were estimated at 49, 50 and 61 calves per 100 cows. A ratio of 40 is normal. Of the four



**Kevin Blecha**  
Colorado Parks  
and Wildlife

bighorn herds surveyed (Lake City/Upper Rio Grande, Taylor River, West Elks, Cochetopa Canyon) lamb:ewe ratios were estimated at 61, 60, 43, and 58 lambs:100 ewes. In some years, these herds have had lamb:ewe ratios as low as 10-30:100.

However, the biggest local news revolves around mule deer. Estimated fawn:doe ratios for the three deer populations surrounding Gunnison averaged 90 per 100. Ninety or more fawns per 100 does has been measured occasionally in other



**Brandon Diamond**  
Colorado Parks  
and Wildlife

places in Colorado over the last 30 years, but never in Gunnison. Gunnison deer populations have averaged 52 fawns per 100 does during annual post-hunt surveys dating back to 1980.

But there is more to consider from a management standpoint. Fawn:doe ratios don't exactly reflect how many young will be recruited (survive until one year of age) into the population. CPW conducts surveys as fawns are entering their first winter, therefore estimating over-winter survival is impor-

tant for determining how many fawns ultimately survive their first year. To estimate survival, CPW captures fawns and equips them with radio collars which allow biologists to assess local survival. Fawn ratios going into the winter and the over-winter survival rates have been above average over the last three years. High ratios and high survival equate to a mule deer population that is on the upswing!

CPW managers thought it might be an above-average fawn:doe ratio year based on our observations when doing ground-captures of fawns last December. In many instances, managers were darting fawns from does accompanied by twins or even triplets. Body condition and weight were relatively average for the fawns captured last December, however body condition of hunter harvested deer in 2020 appeared

continued on A26



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## I JUST HEARD....

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Give the world a smile  
If you take an inch  
Give 'em back a mile  
Cause if you lie like a rug  
And you don't give a damn  
You're never gonna be  
As happy as a clam...  
... Ooh baby  
It's a big old goofy world"*

—John Prine

I just heard that someone who bought a house by The Depot where for decades people have had small weddings or gatherings or cocktail parties is shocked that people actually use the space for small weddings



and gatherings and cocktail parties. And they want it stopped now! Where is that noise coming from?!

I just heard Joe and the Democrats are taking away my hamburger. Communists! Horrible! At least for the (Lauren Boebert) that don't read the things they criticize!

I just heard 4,800 square feet for a second home in one of the most prominent upper valley locations (the middle of a nationally recognized Slate River wetland) isn't big enough to visit comfortably. I mean there's no swimming pool so it's time to go all 10,000+ square feet Telluride and catch up with the real winners who vacation in the mountains!

I just heard from county officials that when it comes to the building season, they are hearing it looks like there are larger houses being applied for and more high-end homes than typical. Welcome to the new post-COVID, it's all about sustainability, world!

I just heard the most Teslas per capita in CB can be found in the affordable housing neighborhood! Sweet!

I just heard the head of the Republican Party in the U.S. House of Representatives now thinks January 6 was really just a jovial little social gathering and not a violent attempt to keep Donald in a job. I mean it's obvious to anyone, anyway that Donald won (Alabama)!

I just heard if I see a kid wearing a mask I should call the cops — because that's child abuse!

I just heard that CB locals who hesitated to sell their million dollar shack and buy a sweet house in Gunnison are too late. You missed the boat in Gunni! I heard bidding wars are normal and if you don't have cash...so long sucker! See you in Salida?!

I just heard the Chamber of Commerce doesn't want to put on the Fourth of July parades anymore. That would be too normal and too expected by tourists and goes against our "funky" branding.

I just heard Eric Roemer scream.

I just heard we might be upgrading our "brand." We're still "funky," right? Or are we "quirky?" Because we have to be a brand now!

I just heard some of the people returning from Spring Break were shocked to see a sewer plant had suddenly been built near their house!

I just heard Mt. CB is setting a world record for putting more plans on paper in the least amount of time than any other town!

I just heard I missed a call from billionaire Mark Walter who wants to share his plans for buying up all the commercial real estate in CB with the community... not! (I can be reached at 349-0500 ext. 109.)

I just heard the Save Our Summers saviors are going to save our summers by stopping the “forced compliance” program the county is secretly putting in place to make sure everyone is hogtied and given a vaccination! Don’t stop when you see the roadblock at the county line. Resist!

I just heard not having a place up here for RVs to dump their crap will fit the sustainable goals of CB and give Gunni more of what it wants... people driving through their town!

I just heard that if a new 10 mph speed limit doesn’t work to stop people from driving at all, the town council will drop the speed limit to 6.5 mph to confuse people further and get them to drive 8.3 mph.

I just heard chief marshal Mike Reily slap his forehead!

I just slapped mine too. I need a vacation. Some things are more true than others, but Lord knows, it’s all close enough—we do indeed live in a big ‘ol goofy world...

—Mark Reaman



# LOOKING LIKE ANOTHER SUMMER OF DROUGHT IN THE GUNNISON BASIN

🕒 April 28, 2021    👁 265 Views



**Water doesn't grow on trees – so don't waste it**

*[ By Mark Reaman ]*

The future dilemma of water issues in the Gunnison Basin and western U.S. is closer than anyone wants to admit.

"About six years ago, I remember listening to Colorado River Risk Study modeling presentations on the potential impact of two years of back-to-back drought on Lake Powell storage levels and potential for Colorado River Compact curtailment," said Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) general manager Sonja Chavez.

"I didn't think it would get here so soon or that we'd be dealing with three years of back-to-back-to-back drought," she said on Tuesday, April 27. "While we are not in a situation of compact curtailment in 2021, levels in Lake Powell continue to drop and it looks like we will have another lean year much like what we saw in 2018."

Given existing drought conditions, it is expected that Blue Mesa Reservoir will peak by filling to only 59 percent after the snow melts this summer. It currently is sitting at about 45 percent full and the expectation is that it will finish the year in December at 47 percent. Taylor Park Reservoir is currently 60 percent full. The current snowpack in the Gunnison Basin is at 69 percent of average for this time of year.

"Current conditions show that 90 percent of Gunnison County is now under severe drought conditions," reported water resource specialist Beverley Richards. "The entire state snowpack is currently at 85 percent of average for this time of year and while some river basins, especially those east of the Continental Divide have seen some improvement, all the river basins in the state remain below average for the year. As a result of the dry conditions in the Gunnison River Basin, stream flows will likely remain low and reservoirs will see little recharge in the coming runoff season."

## How you'll see the impacts

The lack of snowpack and predictions for higher air temperatures will likely mean that rivers will peak around early June. Add to that the fact that we saw snowpack peak around March 31 which is 5-6 days earlier than previous years and drought conditions will be noticeable earlier.

The boating season on the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers for example, will likely be short, with a probable August finish. Floating the Slate River will not last long so there may not be much if any opportunity to ride the Upper Slate if people abide by a voluntary no-float period in the late spring/early summer to protect the Great Blue Heron rookery area. Fisheries may feel the impact of increasing temperatures associated with low flows and harmful algal blooms that can be toxic to humans and pets have been a regular occurrence in Blue Mesa the past few summers. Expect to deal with them again this year.

"We have been talking to entities throughout the valley to help get the word out about the need to conserve water. The municipalities have been great and say they will help spread awareness," said Chavez. "Paying attention to our outdoor water use or lawn watering can also have major positive impacts on conservation. So, the hope is to educate locals and second homeowners about alternative ways to conserve around domestic water use. We are also ramping up our outreach to the local lodging and restaurant industry to start working with their guests to do simple things like ask folks if they would like a glass of water with their meals before providing one or to expect that sheets only get changed every three days unless requested."

Local ranchers are struggling with the lack of water as well. In good years, they might expect to be able to grow two cuttings of hay during the summer, but Chavez said the projection this year is one. "And production is expected to be pretty measly," Chavez said. "It will not be a good year, but we hear from our agricultural community that the ranchers are already working closely on communication around water sharing."

One good piece of news the District received is that the Division of Water Resources (DWR) recently made clear a decision that should keep some water in our valley that in previous years might have headed to the lower Gunnison Basin and farmers in the Uncompahgre Valley in Montrose and Delta.

Chavez explained that she and UGRWCD attorney John McClow got official word from DWR who consulted with the State Attorneys General that they would not honor a Gunnison Tunnel water call. Basically, if there is additional water available for appropriation that is flowing over the Gunnison Tunnel diversion as a result of releases made by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to meet flow targets on the Gunnison River at

Whitewater as part of the requirements under the Aspinall Unit Re-operations Record of Decision, that water has to be accounted for.

“Essentially, water rights junior to the Gunnison Tunnel won’t be curtailed or have their diversions shut off this year or perhaps indefinitely as a result of this decision and that’s a good thing,” Chavez explained. The conversation around better accounting was started years ago and according to McClow, “The bottom line is that it’s going to make the Uncompahgre be a lot more accountable for their water use and storage use.”

Chavez and Richards said the drought conditions are not specific to the Gunnison District or Colorado. “It is the entire Western U.S.,” said Richards. “It is pretty bleak.”

“The drought is certainly on everyone’s mind,” added Chavez. “Everyone across the West is worried about water right now and we are living with the impacts of uncertain hydrology and changing climate. There just isn’t much water being produced in our mountains and watershed right now and it hurts everyone.”



## CB COUNCIL TO REVISIT RV DUMP DECISION

🕒 April 21, 2021    👁 1,575 Views

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### Tough conversation with STOR rep Houck

*[ By Mark Reaman ]*

The Crested Butte town council will revisit its decision to not open the RV Dump Station located by the Crested Butte wastewater treatment plant this summer. The controversial decision was made earlier this month on a split vote and while many residents in the neighborhood applauded the decision, regional partners working on backcountry mitigation efforts were surprised and disappointed by the move. Council will relook at the decision during its May 17 meeting.

Gunnison County commissioner Jonathan Houck sits on the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) committee and told the council at a work session on Monday, April 19 that there seemed to be general consensus on STOR that progress on relocating the RV Dump was moving in a good direction. “But all of the partners were caught off guard by the council action and frustration over the decision was expressed at our meeting where we thought we would be discussing alternatives.”

Mayor Jim Schmidt noted that he had voted to keep it open but when he loses a vote he does his best to accept the results and move on to the best scenario. "I was very discouraged to see the email from the county manager and I get the feeling he doesn't feel Crested Butte citizens are part of the county," he said.

The email from county manager Matthew Birnie to members of the STOR subcommittee dealing with the RV Dump issue stated that the action was "...another unfortunate example of a preference to export the impacts of their tourist industry's impacts down valley and should be met with condemnation, not accommodation," he wrote. He opined it wasn't worth "spending time on trying to find collaborative solutions" under the circumstances.

Houck admitted Birnie's response was venting some frustration but made clear that policy decisions were made by the commissioners, not the manager. "When the issue of neighborhood concerns was first brought to STOR about six months ago, all of the partners agreed it needed to be addressed. This isn't like deciding where to place picnic tables or flower boxes. Moving infrastructure takes time. STOR would like reconsideration of the council decision. I have been spending a lot of time looking at land that might work in and nearby town. There are technical questions to answer and policy decisions to decide. For example, would the council be willing to extend utilities outside of town to a place that could work? Is that even possible?

"But the council decision honestly makes it a harder lift for the regional partners," Houck continued. "And the perception of the messaging coming from the town, whether intentional or not, is 'thanks but no thanks – just take it down to Gunnison.' We all need to work to find an answer to deal with this but the understanding of the STOR was that the town would mitigate the impacts to the neighborhood while we all figured it out. It was surprising when that didn't happen."

"The council recognizes it was a more weighty decision than deciding where to place picnic tables and flower boxes," countered councilwoman Mallika Magner. "Council received a petition with 150 names of people impacted by this. Where do the parties suggest it be located?"

"The picnic table comment context was about nimbleness," replied Houck. "Locating infrastructure is not something you can do on the fly. We showed up at a meeting to consider possible appropriate places and a decision had already been made. It is your decision as a town to make but the county doesn't own a wastewater treatment plant in the north end of the valley. I understand the impact to that part of the community. I have friends who live there. But the message sent was that Crested Butte just wanted to

offload the problem somewhere else. The STOR committee asked several questions related to moving the site and was waiting on answers and we didn't get them."

"Why is the council decision forestalling progress for another location," asked Magner.

"The STOR subcommittee's understanding was that town staff had ideas to mitigate the neighborhood problems while allowing the safe disposal of RV waste. The town decision was made without any heads up to the partners," explained Houck. "Decisions have consequences and there are a lot of things the committee is looking at."

"To hang it on us because we are taking care of our community is not right," said councilwoman Laura Mitchell.

"That's not meant as a threat. None of the partners knew that decision was coming," said Houck. "This is a hard conversation but an honest conversation. If the town doesn't see it as a priority, why would the county and STOR? Is the RV dump more important than other things? I don't know. I'm not looking for a fight, I'm just trying to be honest. The regional partners were taken aback by this decision. We all benefit from tourism and it has impacts. It is part of the economy we have. I'm being honest with how the partners are receiving the message."

Mitchell suggested that perhaps a dump could be part of the new transit facility planned for the Whetstone Industrial Park that has plans to dispose of waste collected on long haul buses. Schmidt suggested the idea of using a holding tank that would be pumped regularly by a commercial business and disposed of in either Gunnison or Crested Butte.

"I'm still trying to find alternative locations. Is the town's representative to STOR doing the same work?" asked Houck.

The council STOR representative is Mona Merrill who was on spring break and not at the council work session. Town community development director Troy Russ said Merrill had debriefed staff about the STOR subcommittee meeting and staff is ready to have continued conversations if the council requests it.

"I think Jonathan has brought up some valid points," said councilman Will Dujardin. "If people thought closing it was a serious option, I think more people would have had a deeper conversation about it at the last meeting. One of our core values as a council is to seek collaborative solutions to regional and local issues. I think we need to revisit it at a later meeting when people know we will be talking about it."



Citizen Kent Cowherd said the estimated \$45,000 in temporary mitigation measures would be a hit to town and wondered if the partners would help with the cost. Houck said he was open to it so “everyone could get skin in the game” but pointed out spending money on temporary solutions is something every government does.

Houck said he would make himself available when the issue came up as a future agenda item.


At the end of the town council meeting, Schmidt said he had heard from some councilmembers including Merrill that the topic should be revisited.

“I admit that I possibly made a mistake and am willing to revisit it also,” said Mitchell. She said she would be missing the May 3 meeting so council agreed to put the RV Dump issue on the agenda for the May 17 council meeting.



## AS CLIMATE WARMS, SUMMER MONSOONS TO PRODUCE LESS STREAMFLOW IN OUR BASIN


🕒 April 14, 2021    👁 1,247 Views



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### New study holds implications for future water supply in the Colorado River Basin

*(Editor's Note: Based upon research by local Crested Butte scientist Dr. Rosemary Carroll, this originally appeared earlier this year in the Desert Research Institute newsletter...and it is not exactly good news.)*

In the summer of 2019, Desert Research Institute (DRI) scientist Rosemary Carroll, Ph.D., waited for the arrival of the North American Monsoon, which normally brings a needed dose of summer moisture to the area where she lives in Crested Butte, Colo. – but for the fourth year in a row, the rains never really came.

“2019 had just a horrendous monsoon,” Carroll said. “Just the weakest monsoon. And we’d had a few years of weak monsoons before that, which had really gotten me wondering, how important is the monsoon to late summer streamflow here in the Upper Colorado River basin? And how do monsoons influence the following year’s streamflow?”

Working in partnership with colleagues David Gochis, Ph.D., of the National Center for Atmospheric Research and Kenneth Williams, Ph.D., of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Carroll set out to explore the importance of monsoon rain in streamflow generation in a Colorado River headwater basin.

The team's findings, which are published in a new paper in *Geophysical Research Letters*, point to both the importance of monsoon rains in maintaining the Upper Colorado River's water supply and the diminishing ability of monsoons to replenish summer streamflow in a warmer future with less snow accumulation.

Their study focuses on the East River watershed, a pristine, high elevation, snow-dominated headwater basin of the Colorado River and part of the Watershed Function Scientific Focus Area (SFA) program that is exploring how disturbances in mountain systems – such as floods, drought, changing snowpack and earlier snowmelt – impact the downstream delivery of water, nutrients, carbon and metals.

Using a hydrologic model and multiple decades of climate data from the East River watershed, Carroll and her colleagues found that monsoon rains normally deliver about 18 percent of the basin's water and produce about 10 percent of the annual streamflow, with streamflow generated primarily in the higher elevations of the basin.

"The amount of streamflow produced by monsoons, while not geographically extensive, is actually somewhat substantial," Carroll said. "It was larger than I thought it would be. That doesn't mean all of that water gets to a reservoir – some likely is used by riparian vegetation or irrigation, but it still does go to meet some need within the basin."

Next, the team explored the ability of these summer rains to produce streamflow during cool years with high snow accumulation, and during warm years with less snow accumulation. During cool years with more snow, soil moisture levels were higher going into summer, and greater streamflow was generated by the monsoon rains. During warmer years with low snowpack, dry soils absorbed much of the monsoonal rains, and less runoff made it to the streams.

"You can think of the soil zone as a sponge that needs to fill up before it can allow water to move through it," Carroll said. "So, if it's already depleted because you had low snowpack, the monsoon then has to fill it back up, and that decreases the amount of water you actually get in the river."

As the climate warms, snowpack in the Rocky Mountains and other mountain systems is expected to decline, leading to reduced streamflow. Rising temperatures also lead to increased soil evaporation and

increased water use by plants. According to the results of Carroll's study, these changes will reduce the ability of water from the monsoon to make it to the river as streamflow.

"Our results indicate that as we move toward a climate that is warmer and our snowpack decreases, the ability of monsoon rain to buffer these losses in streamflow is also going to go down," Carroll said. "So, the monsoon is not some silver bullet that is going to help mitigate those changes."

The Colorado River is a critically important resource for people living in Southern Nevada, where it accounts for about 90 percent of the water supply. Although runoff from winter snowpack provides a much larger proportion of streamflow each year than the monsoons, the monsoonal moisture is important to both ecosystems and people in part because it arrives at a different time of year. And in a system like the Colorado River, where every drop of water is allocated, if monsoon rains do not arrive, it creates a shortage somewhere downstream.

"In terms of water resources, if monsoon rains are useful and contribute to late-season streamflow, then the loss of that water obviously has implications for the ecology of these systems," Carroll said. "This water is really important in supporting aquatic habitat there. But it's also really important for human use. If any amount of water that we rely on isn't there, then something has to give. The Upper Basin will have to consider how they are going to manage their water to meet those downstream obligations."

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## BRIEFS

## HCCA joins fracking lawsuit

Gunnison County group High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA) has joined conservation organizations in a lawsuit challenging the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service's 2020 approval of a plan that allows fracking across 35,000 acres of Colorado's Western Slope.

The lawsuit asserts federal agencies violated the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws by failing to fully assess the potential for water pollution and harm to the climate, and by refusing to analyze alternatives that would minimize or eliminate harm to the environment. The plan would result in about 52 million tons of greenhouse gas pollution, equivalent to the annual pollution from a dozen coal-fired power plants.

## Peak flows this Saturday

The spring peak flow from the Aspinall Unit (Blue Mesa, Crystal and Morrow Point reservoirs) will occur on Saturday, May 15.

Flows in the Gunnison River through the Black Canyon will increase to 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) for 24 hours.

After the spring peak, the Bureau of Reclamation will ramp down flows in the Gunnison River through the Black Canyon to 500 cfs.

The current Upper Gunnison Basin snowpack is 52% of median and total snow accumulation is 73% of average.

## Chavez to stay at Western

Western Colorado University's Vice President of Student Success Abel Chavez was among three finalists to be the next president of Colorado Mesa University (CMU). But CMU trustees chose a different candidate, CMU Vice President John Marshall. The trustees announced the decision April 29.

## Corrections

A May 6 story about a court case against a Gunnison Sheriff's Office deputy incorrectly stated in its headline that an excessive force claim had been dropped. That claim still stands. Rather, the judge in the case dropped the claim of unlawful search.

The May 6 story "Motels fill gaps in Gunnison's chronic housing shortage" incorrectly stated that the Paintbrush housing project is being built using low-income housing tax credit funds. The article should have stated that GardenWalk, a separate affordable housing project in Gunnison, was built using those funds.

## Clark donates \$4.5 million to Western

## School named to honor family

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

As Ralph "Butch" Clark sees it, environmental studies aren't about reacting to contemporary problems; rather, the field is about adapting for the crises of the future. That, he said, is why Western Colorado University's School of Environment and Sustainability is so important, and it's why he has decided to donate most of his wealth — upwards of \$4.5 million — to the school.

To honor his gift, the school will be renamed the "Clark School of Environment and Sustainability." That recognition goes beyond the size of the gift, said the school's dean, John Hausdoerffer.

"We wanted to name the School of Environment and Sustainability after a family that reflected and inspired our values," Hausdoerffer said. Clark "represents the ecological, economic and social justice values of who we want to be."

Hausdoerffer announced the gift and the naming to Western's Board of Trustees on May 7. The paperwork and asset transfer are expected to go through by the end of June.

The Clark family has supported environmental studies at Western for 20 years, starting with a \$1,000 gift Clark's father made in 1999 and then a \$100,000 check Clark's father cut to help elevate environment and sustainability from a minor to a major in 2001. For the past seven years, Clark has been one of the most significant supporters of the school

and especially its Masters in Environmental Management (MEM) program.

He donated 330 acres and a house along Tomichi Creek to start the Western-affiliated Coldharbour Institute. He has co-funded a faculty position in the school and supported a handful of MEM students each year with tens of thousands of dollars in Clark Fellowships.

Off campus, Clark has been a stalwart for social justice movements. He has demonstrated for peace on Main Street at noon every Friday since 9/11. He sold the dude ranch property he purchased with his late wife Judy Clark in Lost Canyon, donating the proceeds to the Gunnison Valley Housing Foundation. And he worked with communities across the west to mitigate the harms of boom and bust cycles in his capacity as a Ph.D. in environmental planning.

"After seven years of Butch investing annually (in the School of Environment and Sustainability), I asked him if he wanted it to be forever. And, if he was invested in that forever, we would be happy to name the entity after him," Hausdoerffer said.

Clark requested that it be named after his entire family, to honor his father and Judy, as well.

"Butch never would have come up with this on his own because he is so humble," Hausdoerffer said.

The impact of Clark's gift will be to sustain in perpetuity the Clark Fellowships for graduate students, the salary of the executive director of the Coldharbour Institute and the half-time faculty position of Sustainable Development Chair. A new \$2 million gift from Clark will serve as an endowment, generating about



Clark

Clark has lived in Gunnison since 1970. He earned a masters in business from Western in 1972 and went on to receive his doctorate from the University of London when he and his wife Judy relocated to England to take care of her parents, who had Alzheimer's disease. Judy would later suffer from the disease, too. She died three and a half years ago on Christmas Day. Butch and Judy decided to not have children, and his gift to Western is part of how he would like his family's legacy to carry on.

From his experiences in academia, Butch said he knew from the inception of the MEM program at Western that "it was really good, and we needed it."

Environmental studies garnered his support because they enable the Gunnison Valley to "cope" and "to learn about what is going on in the present and then eventually apply that into the future," Clark said.

"He is the ultimate Western alum in weaving together a balanced life in service of the world," Hausdoerffer told the Board of Trustees.

Western's Naming and Gift Review Committee approved the name change for the School of Environment and Sustainability on March 31. The Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed the change on May 7.

Clark's gift gives a major boost to the university's seven-year "Elevate Western" fundraising campaign. According to numbers shared by Vice President of Advancement Mike LaPlante, that campaign has so far raised \$9.8 million. The average gift has been \$516,426.

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

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**GOLF COURSE** Level building site along the 11th fairway of the Dos Rios Golf Course. Relaxing setting with views of Hartman Rocks. Great for a spec home or your custom build; 795 Fairway Lane; \$159,000.

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**NEW LISTING** 3 bdrm/2 bath home with lots of windows for natural sunlight and a living room with hardwood floors. Main level has a laundry room & 2 car attached garage. Two bedrooms with large closets upstairs; 407 N. 8th; \$399,000.

**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.

**NEW LISTING** Brand new stylish over 1300sf townhome to be completed mid-August. 2 stories, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, with individual storage shed. Stainless appliances, solid core doors, pantry, tiled walk-in shower. Central location near the schools & RTA bus stop; 813 W. Denver Ave. Unit B; \$415,000.

**NEW LISTING** A classic Gunnison original 2 bdrm/1 bath home with huge detached garage! 1,494sf house with 103sf finished basement and 816sf garage. Corner lot, passive solar through the big south facing windows, gear room, wood shed & plenty of storage. 301 S. Taylor; \$410,000.

**MOUNTAIN GETAWAY** Huge off-grid house in Gunnison & Saguache 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; \$949,000.

**GREAT** starter home or rental investment! 3 bdrm/2 bath home with walking distance to the Rec Center, University & shopping. 7400 S. 14th; 1272sf home and good sized garage; 1106 N. Colorado; \$330,000.

**30 +/- ACRES** in Saguache County is seasonal access, off-grid with no covenants. Great place for your RV or summer cabin. Excellent views; Lot 22 County Road YY10; \$59,000.



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# Gunnison River Festival is on

## Schedule of events released

The Gunnison River Festival is set to happen June 11-13. This year's festival has some old favorites plus new educational, fun opportunities throughout the weekend. The festival board decided early in the planning efforts to highlight and work closely with super sponsors from the past. The offerings share a variety of broad topics from water users, experts, businesses and locals.

The Gunnison River Festival staff — Director Joellen Fonken, Sponsorship lead Josh Stupka and Education/Outreach lead Max Sawyer — are excited to invite the public to review the entire schedule. Sign up for clinics, workshops and see the detailed schedule at [gunnisonriverfestival.com](http://gunnisonriverfestival.com).

**Thursday, June 3-Thursday, June 10 at midnight**

Virtual Town Run and Virtual Fishing Tourney

**Friday, June 11**

4:30 p.m. American Whitewater Taylor River Raft and Kayak Races

**Saturday, June 12**

Instructional Dry and Wet Clinics, these clinics are free

and open to the public. Family appropriate.

9 a.m. Wet Meadow Restoration Project Tour

10 a.m. High Country Conservation Advocates

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Swiftwater Rescue Clinic

12-1 p.m. Whitewater Workshops : Rigging, Packrafting, and Safety

1-2 p.m. Three Rivers Rafting and River Safety Workshop

2 p.m. Coldharbour River Watch and Ranch Tour

3 p.m. Harmful algae blooms and what you can do to help!

3 p.m. River Conservation Hike & Trivia

4 p.m. Western Water Channel Flow Meter Demo

5 p.m. MEM Community Roundtable Event

5 p.m. Western Whitewater Club Table and boat pump competition

6:30 p.m. Dr. Vandenbusche Water History of the Gunnison

Country Keynote

7:30 p.m. Gunnison Valley Theatre Festival

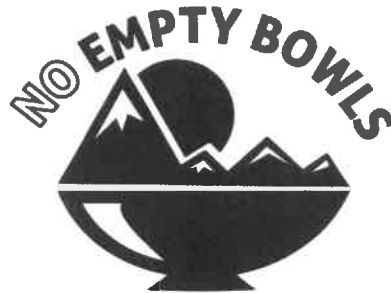
**Sunday, June 13**

10 a.m. Run the Gunnison River 5K

2 p.m. Regenerative Agriculture Saves Soil, Water, and the Climate.

4 p.m. Spann Ranches Tour

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## Foundation awards scholarships

The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley (CFGV) is honored to award five scholarships to high school seniors pursuing higher education. "With a number of extraordinary applicants, these students stood out from their peers for their academic excellence, initiative, and passion for helping others," stated CFGV Executive Director Lauren Kugler. "This year, CFGV's scholarship awards totaled \$16,295, providing a boost to these five students as they embark on the next chapter of their educational pursuits."

**Elena Pedersen Scholarship Award:** New this year, the award honors the extraordinary life of Ellen Pedersen. It was open to seniors graduating from a high school in the Gunnison Watershed School District who are immigrants, children of immigrants or first in their family to pursue higher education. Nelvi Lobatos Lopez and Juan Sabas Aguilar each received a \$2,500 scholarship.

**Gunnison High School Teacher of Tomorrow Scholarship:** Also new this year, seniors graduating from Gunnison High School who plan

to pursue a degree in teaching and a career in primary or secondary education are eligible. Anna Gallowich received the \$1,000 award.

**Gunnison Kiwanis Club Scholarship:** Seniors graduating from a high school in the Gunnison Watershed School District who have demonstrated a commitment to "paying it forward" are eligible, and this year's recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship was Madison Hadley.

**Gunnison Memorial Scholarship:** Started in 1967 to honor the lives of Tom Williams and Sandy Zeigler, recipients exhibit scholastic excellence and dedication to community service. For 2021, Nelvi Lobatos Lopez was awarded \$3,000, and Ivy Pelletier was awarded \$795.

**Maxwell MacAllister Scholarship:** Open to seniors graduating from Gunnison High School who are first in their family to attend higher education, Nelvi Lobatos Lopez will receive \$1,000 per year for up to four years.

The Community Foundation congratulates these very deserving seniors and all seniors graduating this year.

## CITY OF GUNNISON COMMITTEE/BOARD VACANCIES

The Gunnison City Council is accepting letters from citizens interested in serving on Council-appointed Committees/Board.

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC):** Four vacancies available. To serve on PRAC, the applicant shall have resided in the Gunnison Valley for a period of two years prior to the appointment and shall serve for a period of two (2) years. A term runs from the date of the appointment through May 2023. All residents of the City of Gunnison and the Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District are eligible to serve. Meetings are held quarterly and as needed.

**Senior Center Advisory Committee (SCAC):** One vacancy available. To serve on SCAC, the applicant must live within the City limits. Preference shall be considered for applicants for the Committee who are eligible for Senior Center membership and other senior programs offered by the Gunnison Community Recreation Center (age 55 and up). Term expires in May 2023. Meetings are held quarterly and as needed.

**Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority:** One vacancy available. To serve on the GVRHA Board, the applicant must be a resident of Gunnison County and 18 years of age. The individual will begin the term in June 2021 and serve until January 31, 2022. The GVRHA's MISSION is to advocate, promote, plan and provide a long-term supply of desirable and affordable housing in Gunnison County in order to maintain a well-rounded community. Meetings are held virtually, monthly, on Thursday afternoons and as needed.

**Planning and Zoning Commission:** 1 term; term expires in May of 2026. Commission member must be a resident of the City of Gunnison for a least one year and be a registered voter of the City of Gunnison. Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

**Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals:** 4 vacancies; 2 terms expire in May 2023 and 2 terms expire in May 2024. Board members must be a resident of the City of Gunnison for at least one year and be a registered voter of the City of Gunnison. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, as needed, at 7pm.

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees or boards, please submit a letter of interest by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 to: City of Gunnison, Erica Boucher City Clerk, PO Box 239, Gunnison, CO 81230 or email your letter to [eboucher@gunnisonco.gov](mailto:eboucher@gunnisonco.gov). Contact Erica Boucher for more information.







Crested Butte Land Trust employees Cheryl Cwelich and Jon Mugglestone prepare the Slate River for another boating season.

## Working group asks for no-float on Slate River

As the weather warms and excitement for river recreation builds, the Slate River Working Group (SRWG) would like to share recommendations and guidelines intended to help river users participate in a community-driven approach to balancing recreation in the Slate River Valley with functional and healthy wildlife habitats, working grazing lands, private property rights and world-class scenic vistas. These recommendations are considered annually by the SRWG based on snowpack, projected river flow levels associated with spring run-off and Western Colorado University researchers' ongoing observations of the impacts of recreation on the great blue heron population at the Slate River rookery.

For 2021, the SRWG's recommendations for river users are as follows:

- The SRWG recommends a voluntary no-float period from Gunsight Bridge to the Rec Path Bridge from March 15 through July 15 in order to protect the Slate River Valley's great blue heron population during their most sensitive nesting period. Please note, the voluntary no-float period does not apply to BLM-administered portions of the Slate River or the section of river from the Rec Path Bridge to the bridge at Skyland.

- To ensure that the Slate River remains a wild and special place throughout the summer season, the SRWG also requests that floaters leave no trace and adhere to the following river etiquette: respect the great blue heron and other wildlife by

floating quietly and not playing amplified music; be sure that the flow is high enough to safely make it to the next access point without trespassing on private property; pack it in, pack it out — do not litter; use only designated river access points to put in and take-out; when floating across private property, all passengers must remain on your craft; know how to use your craft, keep it within your skill level and always wear a personal flotation device on the water; be prepared for your journey by using restrooms provided at river access points before you float.

- Stay tuned for additional updates and information from the SRWG throughout the summer, as well as opportunities to provide your input. Slate River Stewards will be conducting surveys at river access points and informing river users about recreating safely, responsibly and respectfully. This spring, additional signage will be installed along the Slate River that will inform floaters of private land boundaries and cattle grazing areas in order to help avoid trespass issues and livestock disturbance.

Watch for news about construction of the new Slate River Boat Launch on Pyramid Avenue, which will begin in 2021. Ongoing research by Western Colorado University biologists will continue to inform the SRWG's future recommendations for balancing recreational use with a sustainable great blue heron rookery.

## PEAK TIME PERKS

**GCEA wants YOU to join a new pilot program to beat the peak and save money together!**

**What's the Program?** Peak Time Perks will educate members how to shift their electric usage away from the peak when electricity is most expensive and produces more carbon emissions.

**What's the Perk?** See your positive lifestyle changes help the environment and potentially receive a bill credit afterward.

**Can I Do It?** If you are a residential GCEA member willing to make a few changes to your electric usage and feel you could save money doing it, we encourage you to apply!

**\*Minimum usage of 1,000 kWh/month**

**Interested, but want more details?**

Call GCEA's Energy Use Advisor at (970) 641-3520 or visit

[www.gcea.coop/peak-time-perks](http://www.gcea.coop/peak-time-perks).



Gunnison County Electric Association



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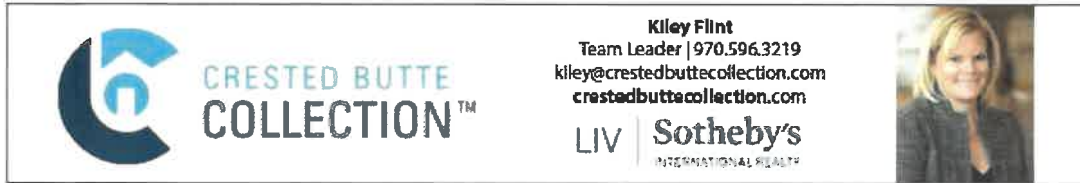
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# CB COUNCIL TO CONSIDER LETTER OVER PROPOSED SLATE RIVER DEVELOPMENT

🕒 May 12, 2021    👁 325 Views



## Three Mile Plan wouldn't address the issue

*[ By Mark Reaman ]*

The Crested Butte town council will consider writing a letter of opposition to a proposed house being built in the county up the Slate River drainage. The house would be located a mile from the Gothic Road turnoff and be 10,000 square feet in size. A 2,500 accessory building is also part of the proposal. It would be surrounded by wetlands and sits on an 80-acre parcel where a home is already located. That 80 acres is expected to be subdivided into two 40-acre parcels. A formal application has not yet been received by the county.

Council heard two comments opposing the construction at the May 3 meeting and they asked the council to support a request for the Gunnison County Commissioners to impose a building moratorium in the area.

Wildbird subdivision resident Tim Szurgot has been a vocal opponent of the proposal and he said there are many concerns with the idea. "Given the special nature of the drainage I would request the county commissioners impose a building moratorium out there and up the entire drainage," he told the council. "There are five or six other parcels available to build on in that area. We are looking for a letter of support from the town for a moratorium."

Former councilmember Jim Starr seconded that opinion. "This is a unique and special area for the Town of Crested Butte and Gunnison County," he said. "The town has spent millions of taxpayer dollars in conjunction with the Land Trust to keep the area as pristine as possible. I urge the council to urge the county commissioners to impose a building moratorium. Please put this on a future agenda."

Council discussed the idea about five hours later and seemed to support the idea. Mayor Jim Schmidt and councilwoman Mallika Magner both asked if council would support a letter being written on the topic. When town manager Dara MacDonald asked what they wanted to say in the letter, neither could definitively answer.



MacDonald also advised the council to consider how to broach the subject given a sometimes strained relationship between the county and town. “Maybe reach out and talk to the commissioners before sending a letter of opposition,” she suggested.

Community development director Troy Russ informed the council that under the town’s Three Mile Plan, there is no basis for opposing the proposal since structures are permitted to be built up to 10,000 square feet in the county without public input. “We can look at the big picture idea and objections as part of the Community Compass,” he said. The Community Compass is a thorough community planning process that will be undertaken later this year.

Council will further discuss the topic at the May 17 meeting.



## DEVELOPERS OF TWO LOTS ABOVE TRAPPER'S GET COURT WIN

🕒 May 12, 2021 👁 228 Views



### Crested Butte now looking at plan given impacts to town

[ By Mark Reaman ]

A judge has approved the next step in a proposed development that would be located above Trapper's Crossing and overlooking the Magic Meadows Nordic trails on Mt. Emmons. That has some Trapper's Crossing landowners upset and has gotten the attention of the Town of Crested Butte that is worried about visual and traffic impacts.

District court judge Steven Patrick sided with the Scenic Butte Partners, LLC developers who requested an easement through condemnation over the private Trapper's Crossing Road, Trapper's Way, that comes off Kebler Pass Road and in part leads to their landlocked 160-acre parcel. An easement through another private lot, along with land owned by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management must also be obtained to access the site. If that is done, the developers plan to build a steep one-mile-long road (or driveway) on their property to access two potential homesites. The proposed 16-foot-wide driveway contains 14 switchbacks with grades as steep as 11 percent.

In his judgment, Patrick noted that the developers had negotiated with the Trapper's Crossing property owners for approximately four years to no avail and "further negotiations would have been futile."

Patrick ordered that the developers, Clayton and Clifton Jones, and their mother, Marion Defoore, "deposit a bond in the amount of two years of the budgeted expenses for maintenance of Trapper's Way (magnesium chloride, maintenance and snow plowing), totaling \$127,000," that will act as the deposit until compensation for the easement is finally ascertained. No construction of the road can start until all permits, including those from Gunnison County and the Crested Butte Fire Protection District, are obtained.

Law of the Rockies attorney Jacob With represented the Trapper's property owners in the case and he said they are disappointed and discussing a possible appeal of the decision. That couldn't be filed until a dollar amount is determined for the easement condemnation compensation.

"The Trapper's HOA will do everything they can do to oppose this," said With. "Part of the process is getting access through the BLM and U.S. Forest Service property where the public should be able to weigh in."

Meanwhile, as part of the case, engineer Tyler Harpel determined that to build the steep road, hundreds of dump truck loads of material would be needed and that would have to be hauled to the site through Crested Butte on Whiterock Avenue. "The volume of imported fill and base course material alone would require at least 500 dump truck trips one way, over 1,000 trips both ways, not including daily construction worker traffic and tree removal traffic," he told the court.

"Having a thousand dump trucks roll through Crested Butte is definitely a concern," stated Crested Butte mayor Jim Schmidt. "Let's see if that is true and then make a comment to the county when appropriate."

"We have been keeping an eye on the court case and Judge Patrick granted the petitioner access on the Trapper's road," explained Crested Butte town attorney John Sullivan, who said he would compile a detailed memo about the project for the council to consider. "No construction can begin until all the permits are granted so the town should have an opportunity to comment, not to the court, but to the county."

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NEWS, A12

# GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES

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## Level Green one week away

County to  
drop most  
restrictions by  
May 28

Kate Gienapp  
Times Staff Writer

In one week Gunnison County can wave goodbye to the vast majority of COVID-19 restrictions.

Public Information Officer Loren Ahonen said the county anticipates reaching Level Green by May 28, two days before the previous Memorial Day target.

That means no more capacity limits, no more county event reviews and no more masks for most settings indoors and outdoors. Businesses will still be able to require masks if they choose.

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis last week dropped the remaining state mask mandates. He recommended that unvaccinated persons continue to mask up indoors.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said this month that fully vaccinated individuals can finally take the mask off — at least if they are outdoors.

Public Health Director Joni Reynolds acknowledged all the recent changes to federal, state and local laws has been confusing.

"It's messy," said Joni Reynolds. "I appreciate that this is challenging, whether it's the message from the state, or federal or local level that's different."

On Monday, county leaders agreed to follow federal guidance and to loosen restrictions for masks, meaning fully vaccinated folks are now able to go mask-less outside in Gunnison County even if social distancing is not possible.

The Town of Crested Butte followed suit this week and repealed the requirement that

COVID-19 A7



Matt Smith

## So great to see smiles

Gunnison High School's Class of 2021 got to celebrate a traditional commencement ceremony — in person, with family and friends, and without masks — last Sunday in Western Colorado University's Mountaineer Bowl. Seen here, Brendan Richter leads a group of classmates onto the field near the beginning of the event.



Chris Dickey

## Shady Island goes 'pay to play'

County leaders  
discuss fees for  
river park

Kate Gienapp  
Times Staff Writer

The new Shady Island River Park will bring improved river access, shoreline fishing, campsites and picnic areas. But those amenities come at a cost, leading county leaders to look into implementing fees for the park.

Shady Island A8



Kate Gienapp

County leaders toured Shady Island River Park on May 11.

## CB council reverses RV dump decision

Town approves  
parking plan for  
Elk Avenue

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

Decisions around traffic and parking occupied Crested Butte Town Council during much of their Monday meeting. The outcome was three new policies that will visibly impact visitors, residents and workers alike: reopening of the RV dump station, enforcement of timed parking on Elk Avenue and permit-only parking on two residential streets.

Bowing to an outcry from valley residents and leaders across the county, the council reversed its previous decision to close the RV dump station on the 800 block of Butte Avenue. As a condition of the reopening, the council set a two-year timeline for the dump location to change. Council members, as well as county leaders who spoke at the meeting, said two years was a reasonable amount of time to find a new North Valley dump station location.

"There's no perfect answer at the moment, but I think having a timeframe, having a clear understanding of where you sit, if that's the decision you make, really helps drive action," said Gunnison County Commissioner Jonathan Houck before the council voted unanimously to re-open the facility.

The dump, however, will not reopen in the same configuration as in years past. The station will remain in the same location, but vehicles will be forced to enter the station area by queuing in a new lane to be added to the east side of Eighth Street in the town's right of way. After turning right onto Butte and entering the dump, RVs would then exit through the Paradise Park neighbor-

RV dump A7

inside  
today

MORPHEW FACES  
NEW CHARGES  
NEWS, A5

RELAY TEAM BREAKS  
WESTERN RECORD  
SPORTS, A17

EARLY CHILD CARE WORKERS  
REFLECT ON PANDEMIC YEAR  
NEWS, A22



## COVID-19

from A1

pedestrians wear masks on Elk Avenue.

In response to the new county guidelines, Gunnison Watershed School District Superintendent Leslie Nichols notified parents that masks will be required inside school district buildings through the end of the school year, regardless of vaccination status. That policy also applies to school buses and other district vehicles. Gunnison Schools are set to close for the summer on May 27, and Crested Butte schools will close June 4.

The county continues to require masks in certain settings: events with more than 500 people, in schools and in most health care settings. Masks will be required on public transportation such as buses and airplanes throughout the summer.

Polis said that, despite the recent changes, he will continue to carry a mask and respect individual businesses' choice to

require masks.

Polis said those who have yet to be vaccinated should still wear masks when indoors or unable to social distance. He encouraged all unvaccinated Colorado residents to join in getting the vaccine as soon as possible.

"We have reached a level of immunization where the pandemic isn't over, but we are safer," Polis said.

The change to allow fully vaccinated residents to be outdoors without a mask followed a CDC announcement last week regarding fully vaccinated people. According to the CDC, if it's been two weeks since a person's final dose, they no longer need to cover their face or maintain social distances in most situations no matter the occupancy or crowd size.

Reynolds recommended that those who are not yet vaccinated continue wearing face coverings to protect themselves and others. There have been a handful of positive cases each week in Gunnison County.

"There's still very high levels of case incidence rates in some counties," Reynolds said. "Gunnison is about in the middle."

As of May 17, there are 9,229 county residents who are fully vaccinated, with a total of 10,462 first doses of the vaccine administered to date.

Public health officials urged that those who have received the first dose of the shot shouldn't hesitate to get the second dose, even if they are overdue. According to the county's digital database, there are more than 900 individuals who are overdue for their second shot of the vaccine.

"My goal has been to approach this consistently using projections and science and public health practices to guide what we're doing when it comes to public health measures," Reynolds said. "We're really close."

(Kate Gienapp can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or kate@gunnisontimes.com.)

## RV dump

from A1

hood. Concerns about RV traffic through Paradise Park were the basis of the council's decision to close the dump in early April.

An alternative presented to council by town staff was to make the 800 block of Butte Avenue a one-way west-bound street. RVs would have lined up on that street before entering the station. Council Member Will Dujardin opposed the measure, saying that the neighborhood did not have enough notice about the potential loss of two-way traffic on that street. Staff and other council members also raised concerns that the alternative would put more traffic on adjacent residential streets.

Council Member Jason MacMillan, who had supported the closure of the dump station in April, said he was thankful for the information shared with the council by the City of Gunnison and by the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) Committee.

That the City of Gunnison is set to close its RV dump station in August and September to make improvements "is a big deal, and we need a dump in this valley this summer," MacMillan said.

The STOR Committee wrote to Town Council in a May 10 letter, "Managing human waste is a community responsibility. Closing the station without identifying another option for locals and visitors will make it harder for people to do the right thing. The station is no longer in a suitable location, and it needs to be relocated. However, projects like this take many months to develop, even under the best of scenarios. The STOR Committee is committed to working with the Town to find an alternate location. But we do not support the decision to shut off access to the station ahead of what may be the busiest tourist season yet."

After the council's vote, Crested Butte Mayor Jim Schmidt urged valley leaders to immediately tackle the challenge of finding a new dump station location.

"I've seen proposals in the past just get lost, but as far as finding the alternate solution of this, I don't want to see that go into the fog machine. I hope the STOR committee digs their heels in and attacks this right now because it is going to take awhile to work out the solution to this," Schmidt said.

### Downtown Parking

On the other side of Crested Butte, a new traffic regime is set to take place on Elk Avenue and the adjacent streets Sopris and Maroon avenues.

Those adjacent streets have long been congested with Elk Avenue patrons and employees parking in front of houses. But the implementation of one-way flow on Elk Avenue last summer exacerbated traffic and parking problems on Sopris and Maroon. That prompted town staff to gather traffic and parking data over the winter and to propose at a work session earlier this month new rules for parking on and around Elk Avenue.

Town council voted 5-1 Monday to make Elk Avenue an enforced, two-hour parking zone and to make Sopris and Maroon permit-only parking areas. The council hired the Colorado firm Interstate Parking for \$70,000 to manage and enforce the regulations this year. New parking signs for Maroon and Sopris will cost an additional \$10,000.

Enforcement of the two-hour Elk Parking and of the Sopris and Maroon permit zones is scheduled to start June 22 with warnings only. Interstate will begin issuing citations on July 5. Enforcement will continue through Oct. 5, at which point the Elk Avenue one-way configuration and the parking enforcement will end for the fall off-season.

Parking enforcement is set to restart for the winter tourism season on Dec. 17 and to last through April 3, 2022.

Residents on Sopris and Maroon will be given a number of permits per household depending on how much off-street parking each lot already has. Elk Avenue businesses will also be issued parking permits for Sopris and Maroon depending on the size of their workforces, whether they have paid a fee in lieu of parking and what Town Community Development Director Troy Russ called the "trip generation characteristics" of their businesses types.

Dujardin voiced opposition to the parking plan, arguing that the permit-only parking zones on Sopris and Maroon were unnecessary. Schmidt also said the plan was going too far with the employee permits on the residential streets being "too much."

"We've gone from free and easy to free and difficult," Schmidt said.

Other council members and members of the public said they appreciated that parking experts and professionals had developed the plan. They agreed with town staff's opinion that the whole plan worked together as a system.

Council Member Mona Merrill said she was impressed by how well Interstate implemented a similar parking regime in Breckenridge, where she owns a business.

"If it really is moving and you both (town staff and Interstate) have faith that this is the system that is going to provide the best experience to the residents and to our locals and to our tourists, then I have faith, and I wouldn't mind trying it and making sure that we can make tweaks to it along the way," Merrill said.

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

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~The Family Throw Down: Fridays, June 4th, 3 - 6 pm.  
~Marimba Workshop: Saturday, June 5th, 9 am - 12 pm.  
~"A Sense of Place" - Travel Sketch Journaling: Saturday and Sunday, June 5th & 6th, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.  
~Aerial Conditioning: Session 1: Mondays, June 7th - July 12th, 5:00 - 6:00 pm OR 6:00 - 7:00 pm.  
~Barre Sculpt Intensive: Session 1: Tuesdays & Thursdays, June 8th - July 15th, 5:30 - 6:30 pm.  
~Design your Totc (Ages 13-16): Tuesday & Thursday, June 8th & 10th, 3:00 - 5:00 pm.

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Courtesy

Proposed plans for the Shady Island River Park will include fees for day use and camping to keep up with maintenance costs.

## Shady Island

from A1

Gunnison County Commissioners on April 27 discussed a fee proposal for the Shady Island River Park. All revenues generated from fees would pay for continued maintenance of the park.

"Shady Island is setting up to be like a state park or the Arkansas River headwaters area," said Gunnison County Stewardship Coordinator Joe Lavorini. "The 'pay to play' is sort of becoming the standard."

Sustainable Operations Director John Cattles said fees would be nominal, "no more than a fancy cup of coffee" for day use passes.

Gunnison County Community Development Director Cathie Pagano said the fees are needed to maintain the park over time. But she said those who walk and bike to the park would be able to visit for free, helping to keep the space inclusive.

Plans for the Shady Island River Park include 18 smaller campsites and one group campsite. There will be two gathering areas with fire pits. All camping sites will be outfitted with a site post, tent pad, fire ring and picnic table.

A day pass, which includes a parking permit and access to the park, would be \$5. A weekly pass, or seven consecutive days would be \$15, and visitors would be able to purchase an annual pass for \$40, which would provide parking access as well as access to amenities such as toilets.

There is additionally an overnight camping pass lasting two calendar days for parking and access to one designated camping site.

The fee proposal includes an annual pass for commercial users. The pass will pay for space for outfitters and guides. An annual permit would cost \$500 for river access and dedicated



Kate Gienapp

Portions of Shady Island River Park were paved in recent weeks with new boat ramps almost ready to go.

parking.

"In-stream improvements never last forever," said County Manager Matthew Birnie. "There are real costs." Such improvements at the park are new eddies and boulder placements to create put-ins for boats and other users.

There are 43 parking spaces for cars and 36 parking spots for trailers.

A parking control system will be installed with license plate readers that will read and record license plates as vehicles enter and exit the site.

A kiosk will be installed near the parking lots where passes can be purchased for both parking and camping.

Users will be allowed the first 30 minutes free to allow for shuttle drop offs. Vehicles that exit after being on site for longer than 30 minutes without purchasing a day pass or weekly or season pass will be ticketed.

Commissioner Liz Smith asked during the April 27 work session how group camping sites would be charged.

Cattles answered that this sea-

son would not have staff on site daily because the campground is not established yet. But the following season it is planned that a camp host will be on location to deal with maintenance and enforcement.

"I find these fees to be incredibly reasonable," said Commissioner Jonathan Houck.

Future considerations include potential discounts for seniors, veterans, volunteers or potential discounts with the school district's Choice Pass.

County leaders agreed to refine the proposed fee structure in coming weeks. The development of the amenities at the Shady Island River Park has been nearly entirely funded by grant sources including the Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District, the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, Great Outdoors Colorado and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

(Kate Gienapp can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or kate@gunnisontimes.com.)





Sam Liebl

## Bank shots

A State of Colorado mobile vaccination bus parked outside Community Banks of Colorado on Saturday, giving county residents another walk-in option to receive the shot.



Sam Liebl

## Going with the flow

The City's Public Works Department turned on Gunnison's ditches Monday. Lead Water Operator Jim Yadauga opened the main headgate to allow for an above-normal flow, needed to flush debris through the system. Water operator Nick Hill and his coworkers made their way downstream Monday and Tuesday, pulling leaves out of ditches and opening grates to keep the flow going.



# Slate River building permit raises alarm

## Large home proposal prompts conservation push

Alan Wartes  
Special to the Times

The owners of property along Slate River Road just north of Crested Butte recently filed a building permit application with Gunnison County Community Development that has neighbors and community leaders looking for a way to hit the pause button on development in the area. They asked the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Tuesday to consider imposing a moratorium on new construction along the Slate River corridor, in order to explore designating it a "special use district,"

due to its environmental and aesthetic importance to the community.

This week the Crested Butte Town Council voted to redraft and approve a letter of support for the effort.

"(The issue) is not just this development, but it's kind of setting the tone for the rest of the development as well, and we'd like to get ahead of it," said Council Member Will Dujardin.

In particular, neighbors are concerned about the expected size of the project, given its location. Though full details of the proposed residential construction have not yet been disclosed, the new home is expected to come close to upper size limits allowed by the County Land Use Resolution (LUR).

Efforts to contact the property owner, Adele Louise Pentland, for comment were unsuccessful. Pentland is the executive vice president and chief business affairs and legal officer at PayPal.

In 2007, the Board of County Commissioners voted to amend

the LUR to permit dwellings up to 10,000 sq. ft., with an additional building not to exceed 2,500 sq. ft.—up from 5,000 sq. ft. and an aggregate of 7,500.

Tim Szurgot, who lives in the nearby Wildbird subdivision, has acted as an unofficial spokesperson for those concerned with the project. While he acknowledges that current regulations allow such large homes and accessory buildings "by right," Szurgot hopes to raise awareness about whether such development conforms to other established community values.

"For the past 30 years this community has worked to preserve the Slate River wetlands," he said. "The largest landowner in the valley is the Crested Butte Land Trust, and there's been \$11 million and countless hours invested in conservation. In talking with people I feel there's a lot of support for exploring a special use district to ensure that the development that happens on the Slate River goes along with what the community

has shown to value here."

Town Council's draft letter of support acknowledges that Crested Butte's Comprehensive and Three Mile Plans are "10 years out of date," and goes on to state, "Furthermore, we are concerned the County's development regulations, like ours, may also need to be updated to better incorporate the challenges of today. The economics of development contemplated by the Town at time of our Three-Mile Plan are dwarfed by the economics and financing behind today's development. We fear the same for the County's regulations, especially in the Slate River Valley."

Gunnison County Community Development Director Cathie Pagano confirmed that her office has received applications for building and septic permits from the owners of the property in question.

"We do review all permits for compliance with square footage requirements and water quality standards, etcetera, so that's all

part of the process," she said. "Concerns have been expressed about wetlands habitat and things like that, and that's certainly part of our review."

However, Pagano said, unless a permit application exceeds allowable size limits, thereby triggering a minor impact change review, the LUR does not require public hearings for community input into permitting decisions.

"Going forward, the board would have the opportunity to talk about reducing square footage allowances in the county, if that would be something they want to consider in the future," she said.

"The moratorium we've requested would just hit the pause button while we take a look at this," said Szurgot. "We just felt like we needed to raise our hand and say something."

(Alan Wartes can be contacted at [alan@alanwartesmedia.com](mailto:alan@alanwartesmedia.com))



COURTESY

## Thrill of the quill

Paper quilled creations by Cyndi Wokersien and Anne Michel are on display until May 31 at Gunnison Gallery. 25% of the sales will be donated to The Gunnison Country Food Pantry. Stop by 124 N. Main St. on Monday through Saturday to see the show.

# Blue Mesa 'National Park'

In words and photos, Teresa Golden argues for protection of valley treasure

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

Wildlife photos this month line the walls of the Gunnison Arts Center's Gallery. The prints represent a decade of work by Gunnison photographer Teresa Golden.

But the body of work has been assembled to make a point: to argue for the designation of Blue Mesa Reservoir as a national park.

Golden said she sees the proposed national park as a necessity to preserve the unique ecology and beauty of the area, as well as a needed boost for Gunnison's economy.

"Tourism is the number one revenue generator in the State of Colorado, so I thought why are we giving all our resources to Rocky Mountain National Park when we have a rocky mountain paradise right here



Sam Liebl

Teresa Golden at the opening of her Gunnison Arts Center show.

in Gunnison County?" Golden said.

She hopes the show will start legislative momentum for the designation. She sent invitations to the show to many elected officials.

Golden's photos of bighorn sheep, raptors and wildflowers will be on display through May 28.

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

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### 2013 Top Dog "Rookie"

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**Rookie:** My human loves taking long hikes with me on our favorite trails in the valley, is there anything we should be aware of while hiking?

**Critter Sitters:** YES, it's the start of tick season! Ticks are active from spring to fall and are most predominant during late spring and summer.

**Rookie:** Ticks will bite and it can be painful! What are some things we can do to protect ourselves from getting tick bites?

**Critter Sitters:** Not all flea and tick preventions are created equal! Although topical flea and tick repellents are very effective, they should not be applied if your dog is going to get wet within 72 hours of application. Flea and tick collars may not be effective on the whole dog. Your vet can also recommend an oral option to help protect you from ticks!

**Rookie:** What can happen to me if I get a tick bite?

**Critter Sitters:** If your owner does not feel they can safely and completely remove the tick they should consult their veterinarian. Although we don't have Lyme disease here, we do have Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever which has very similar symptoms to Lyme disease as well as many other auto-immune diseases. A dog that has become infected with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever may have one or more of the following clinical signs: poor appetite, muscle or joint pain, fever, coughing, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, swelling of the face or legs, or lethargy. If diagnosed early, prognosis is good!

**Rookie:** Enjoy these beautiful days and stay protected and safe out there!

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## LETTERS

## Times are a changin'

Editor:

As an avid reader of the *Gunnison Country Times*, imagine my surprise being called out by name in the publisher's column last week ("It Takes Two Types of University Presidents" 5/13/21).

Many of the observations throughout the column, like the necessity of deploying an entrepreneurial spirit in managing higher education institutions, were spot on. I also appreciate the publisher pointing out the "deceptive maneuvering" used to break the agreement our Board of Trustees and I made many years ago with former Western President Jay Helman and the Western Board of Trustees that neither of our institutions would pursue the name "Western Colorado University."

When CMU changed its name back in 2011, we understood why Western, Adams and Metro all moved to do the same thing a year later. We had robust conversation in 2012 and beyond about the issue and beat the horse to death, finally coming to the agreement that neither school would use the name Western Colorado University or any combination thereof.

As someone who grew up in western Colorado, I'm a bit old-fashioned in thinking that giving your word means something. I never anticipated that we would need to enter into a formal agreement but rather relied on the good faith of both parties not to break their word. We learned the hard way that times they are a changin'.

As I prepare to retire as President of CMU in Grand Junction, I wish all of my friends in Gunnison all the best and I'll be rooting for the Mountaineers (unless they're playing our beloved Mavericks).

Tim Foster  
Grand Junction

## Climate change not up for debate

Editor:

After seeing Jane Chaney's letter in last week's paper, I felt compelled to respond.

Chaney railed against Senate Bill 21-260, couching her argument in constitutional rights. Yet, to my knowledge, she

has never disavowed the 147 republican lawmakers voting to overturn a fairly won election which may have been the greatest affront to our Constitutional rights in history.

That being said, she completely ignores or misrepresents climate change and other aspects of the bill and electric vehicles. For example, she asks if a charging station will be available for a backcountry trip. I don't recall seeing any gas station in the back country either. She asks if an electric vehicle will be able to haul a truck full of hay. Does she not realize that every freight and passenger train in the country is powered by electric motors? She asks what will happen to warn out batteries, ignoring the fact that they are easily recycled. She also seems to imply that we should continue to prop up the coal industry in spite of the fact that it is our most expensive and most polluting form of energy.

Keep in mind that the data is indisputable. Climate change is a fact and that greenhouse gases are the cause. I probably will not be alive to see the cataclysmic changes that will occur if we do not act now, but I do worry about my daughter's and other children's generations.

Does she not realize that we are approaching a tipping point and that internal combustion engines in vehicles are the greatest source of greenhouse gases and other forms of pollution such as oxides of nitrogen on the planet? They run at about 30% efficiency as opposed to electric vehicles that run at about 77% efficiency and as we move toward renewable energy and possibly fourth generation nuclear energy our transportation industry will produce little or no greenhouse gas.

As a former registered Republican, I find it disturbing to say the least that Chaney or anyone else would politicize issues that are critical to our well being.

Charles Welch  
Gunnison

## Stick with the plan on Gunnison Rising

Editor:

Just last year, after hours and hours and hours of public hearings, city council

approved the latest PUD change for Gunnison Rising — which was years in the making. Why now, only months later, is there yet another proposed change?

Expanding the definition of the live-work area to include just about anything and no longer subject to Conditional Use seems significant. The types of businesses mentioned in the article (auto sales, convenience stores, storage units, etc.) would make it less desirable to live there — not more. They would also make it a less attractive entrance into the city. Does Gunnison really want to be like Brooklyn, N.Y.?

Also, after the recent articles in the *Times* cautioning city leaders to get ahead of a potential explosion of short-term rentals and the negative impacts they've had on places like Crested Butte and Buena Vista, it's surprising that improving the viability of short-term rentals is a noted benefit to this change. Seems a bit tone deaf when our need is permanent housing.

Kudos to Planning Commissioners Oros and Scheerer for having the courage to question these proposed changes and resist just rubber stamping them. I hope city council will follow their lead and stick to the PUD approved last year.

Brenda Freeburn  
Gunnison

## He's got to go

Editor:

(Singing to the tune of "Old McDonald had a Farm.") Old Joe Biden has a plan, E-I-E-I-O.

A plan to spend a lot of dough, E-I-E-I-O. A trillion dollars here, a trillion dollars there, here a trillion, there a trillion, everywhere another trillion.

Old Joe Biden has a plan, that will bankrupt us all. Old Joe Biden has a plan, E-I-E-I-O.

A plan to increase all our taxes, E-I-E-I-O. He will tax the rich, he will tax the poor, he will tax the corporations more.

Old Joe Biden has a plan to bring us to our knees.

Old Joe Biden has no plan, E-I-E-I-O.

To Make America Great Again, E-I-E-I-O.

He dreams of things like Socialism, climate change and the Green New Deal.

Come on man, let's get real. Let's stick with things that work.

Like the border wall, like gas and oil, lower taxes and less regulations.

Old Joe Biden has to go,

And he must take his Shadow with him.

Bob Delahay  
Gunnison

## Gunnison Rising fallacy

Editor:

With Gunnison Rising now permitted by the planners and powers that be, one has to wonder about the thought that did not go into the planning. A development next to the airport (get ready for the noise abatement lawsuits) due to 150DB noise levels from aircraft taking off to the west. Building on wetlands (is there an EPA permit for the build?) makes little sense.

Those of us who have been around for more than four or five decades remember what the Tomichi does in big snow years. Does anybody else remember the Tomichi being a lake from the highway to W Mountain? As recently as 1983 much of what is now lower Dos Rios was under water. We are in the midst of a record drought (Blue Mesa down 66 feet and down 5 feet during the past two weeks when it should be filling) does not mean the wet years will not return.

It seems development at any cost, like Vail Valley, is now the mantra for Gunnison's leaders. Lastly, who is paying for the extension of utilities, the developers or the taxpayers?

Jim Gazzoli  
Gunnison

## Why I back emissions bill

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to speak out in support of SB-200. The utility companies that provide us with the power to perform in this modern world have not been concerned about the long-term environmental and health effects of their energy sources from the beginning. It is past

time for them to be accountable. This bill will push them to not only set specific goals for attaining reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and hold them to an Air Quality Control Commission timeline but will also provide support to those communities and populations most impacted by their generations of denying the detrimental environmental and socioeconomic impacts of their power sources and practices.

Allowing for more public comment is also an important aspect of this bill. I think we can all agree that citizens should be given this opportunity on many matters but, most importantly, on the quality of their air and water.

It would be a beautiful world if all of us took into consideration the impact of our actions prior to initiating them. Unfortunately, we tend to be ruled by short-term monetary gain and not by a sense of responsibility to the better good of all humanity. I encourage not only Kerry Donovan but our governor, as well, to support SB 200 in an attempt to make certain that our utility companies play a role in the reduction of GHG here in Colorado.

Sue Williamson  
Crested Butte South

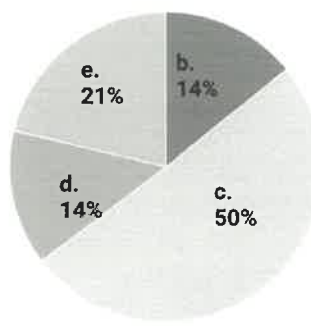
## LETTERS POLICY

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@gunnisontimes.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

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## LAST WEEK'S POLL:

The proposed "live-work" zone within Gunnison Rising:

- a) will help reduce traffic with shorter commutes to work; 0%
  - b) allows for walkable spaces and connectivity to the city; 14%
  - c) will cause too many negative impacts in a residential zone; 50%
  - d) will attract small businesses and employees to the area; 14%
  - e) is how all new developments should be designed. 21%
- 28 total votes

## THIS WEEK'S POLL:

The proposed fees for the Shady Island River Park for uses including overnight camping, parking and day use:

- a) will improve the area and ensure its longterm use;
- b) proves the "pay to play" model is needed to maintain outdoor amenities;
- c) will still be inclusive as those who walk or bike to the park can access the area for free;
- d) are a burden to residents and visitors;
- e) are not needed to maintain the county park.



🕒 May 19, 2021    👁 1,139 Views


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## Giving regional stakeholders this summer and next to determine a new location

*[ By Katherine Nettles ]*

Crested Butte will have an RV dump station open to the public, after all, this summer. In a reversal of its previous decision, the Crested Butte Town Council on Monday, May 17, voted unanimously to reopen the town's RV dump with some temporary changes to traffic flow in and out of the station. Citing new knowledge that the county's dump station will be closed this fall for upgrades and an outpouring of community and stakeholder input that the dump is a vital part of the local backcountry user system, town council members agreed to a temporary, two-season opening while addressing both neighborhood concerns for the increased RV traffic in the area. Council also wanted to ensure that a long-term location change for the dump is forthcoming.

The dump will reopen around Memorial Day and remain open for a period of two summers. Then the dump station will sunset at the end of the summer season in 2022, and in the meantime will operate with a queue

lane along the east side of Eighth Street that accommodates up to six large RVs. The council agreed that a set of wayfinding signage, traffic calming measures and a higher suggested donation fee will be included.

More than 100 people joined the council's Zoom meeting for the agenda item on Monday, and after a staff presentation of four possible traffic flow alternative plans, council weighed in on their preferences and opened the meeting to public comment. All commentary was appreciative of the council's willingness to revisit their April 5 decision to close the dump, and there was close to an even split among council members and nearby residents regarding two of the alternative plans (1A or 2A). After some robust discussion, council voted in favor of Alternative 1A, which will cost town an estimated \$3,500 and can be implemented immediately, aiding in Memorial Day weekend readiness.

The new plan uses a temporary barrier to create a controlled access point to enter the station, and a new queue lane on northbound Eighth Street between Teocalli and Butte Avenues. The exit will remain the same as previously set up, allowing multiple choices to depart the area from Ninth Street. There will be some minor construction work to grade and compact the new queue lane on Eighth Street, since it is not on a paved roadway.

Community development director Troy Russ said at the discussion's outset that collecting traffic data would be important if traffic calming measures were on the table, so the decisions could be made objectively rather than setting a precedent for other busy areas such as Peanut Lake Road and the neighborhood around the Crested Butte Community School.

Crested Butte town planner Mel Yemma said that the public feedback coming in for the past couple weeks has been mixed. "We've kind of seen equal feedback on both sides for each alternative," she said.

Resident Kent Cowherd spoke in favor of 2A, which would create a temporary, seasonal one-way configuration on Butte Avenue between Eighth and Ninth Street heading westbound only. Cari Freeman, who owns the Crested Butte RV Resort, spoke in favor of re-opening, effective immediately. "The campers are already arriving," she said.

"Kat C.," a resident of the neighborhood, said she liked option 1A or 1B.

JD Crichton had concerns with Plan B that would create a one-way traffic flow.

Suzanne Pierson said as a former RV owner she liked 1A or 1B and cared more about long-term plan for moving the dump to another location out of a busy neighborhood.

Council all agreed re-opening the dump was the right thing to do for a temporary measure, but they also had a split in which direction to take.

Councilmember Chris Haver said he leaned toward 2A, and said he wanted to add monitoring cameras, white stripes at the stop signs and that the two-year sunset was important.

Councilmember Laura Mitchell also preferred option 2. Councilmember Jason MacMillan said he also wanted 2A. "I think that has a better flow of traffic," he said, as RVs exiting the station could immediately leave the neighborhood via Butte Avenue heading west. MacMillan also wanted calming measures or at least traffic data collection.

Councilmember Will Dujardin strongly supported option 1A, and said he thought that putting in a one-way on Butte Avenue was a bad idea and hadn't been vetted among neighbors.

"We would just be hearing from everyone again that this new option was not presented until the days leading up to this meeting," he said.

Councilmember Mona Merrill said she liked either 1A or 2A, both of which were simpler, temporary changes at the lowest cost.

Mayor Jim Schmidt preferred 2A, and didn't think the temporary one-way would be an issue but that with Option 1 RVs would be circling around the block and congesting traffic.

Town staff explained that implementing a pay system at the dump might take several weeks to have in place and cost \$45,000, while historically the dump receives about \$7,000 to \$8,000 in donations each summer. All agreed to save the money and simply raise the suggested donation from \$10 to \$15.

After more council discussion of whether to choose Option 1 or Option 2, Mitchell made a motion to reopen with Option 1A, with an increased suggested donation of \$15 for use of the dump, and adding video monitoring to collect traffic data, white striping at the stop signs and a two-year sunset for the dump station. Merrill seconded, and asked if the town staff could revisit the traffic plan later if there were unintended consequences.

"A lot of these decisions that we make seem so monumental we feel like we can't revisit... I definitely would want staff to monitor with their cameras," she said. Others agreed.

Dujardin asked if speed bumps could be added to the motion, but Russ suggested using pop-up speed limit signs first before adding speed bumps, and council agreed that would suffice to start with. All council



members voted in favor.

Schmidt said the long-term plan was most important. He acknowledged that all potential solutions for a new location seem to have problems, but that action must be taken.

County commissioners Jonathan Houck and Roland Mason were on the call and encouraged council members that they would support the search for a new RV dump location elsewhere in the North Valley.

“There is no clean silver bullet here, some other potentials are starting to at least show themselves enough that we should run them down and see what they look like...I think having a timeframe, having a clear understanding of where you sit, really does help drive action within the community,” said Houck.

District ranger Matt McCombs from the Forest Service Gunnison District said the USFS wants to be a “key partner” in finding a solution for the service, acknowledging that the bountiful public lands around Crested Butte attract much of the need for an RV dump. He said he believes the local stakeholders, especially in relation to the Gunnison County STOR (Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation) Committee, can “have the right facilities in place to meet the demand that we see ever-increasing.”

“I hope the STOR committee digs their heels in,” commented Schmidt, after the vote. “I don’t want to see this go into the fog machine.”





## SLATE RIVER BUILDING PROJECT RAISES CONCERNS OVER CONSERVATION

🕒 May 19, 2021 👁 1,020 Views

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**Wandering Willows application submitted to the county last week**

*[ By Katherine Nettles and Kendra Walker ]*

A much-anticipated building permit application for a large home in the Slate River corridor has made its way to Gunnison County's community development department and has prompted several residents and entities within the county to call for greater restraint in the Land Use Resolution (LUR) and the formation of a special land use area within the Slate River corridor.

On May 14, applications were submitted on behalf of Dirk Williamson and Louise Pentland of Frisco, Texas for building and onsite wastewater treatment system permits for 1101 CR 734, owned by Adele Louise Pentland. The permit application as listed online through the county states the property is for a single-family residence with detached garage/barn. The property is listed as 80 acres and has an assessed value of \$3.4 million.

Gunnison County community development director Cathie Pagano confirmed Tuesday that her department had received the application. “Our staff has not reviewed the application yet but it is in the queue for review,” she wrote in an email to the Crested Butte News.

The plat, as attached to the permit application, is named Wandering Willows. A map shows the property divided into two parcels running north to south; Parcel 1 is 43.17 acres and Parcel 2 is 37.28 acres. Both sit adjacent to the Slate River, across the river from land owned by the Crested Butte Land Trust. Colorado law allows the division of parcels 35-acres or larger with no county review, according to Pagano.

The site plan shows a 9,984-square-foot house and 2,189-square-foot detached garage on Parcel 1, for an aggregate square footage of 12,173 square feet plus a 300 square foot greenhouse. The general contractor is Somrak Concept and Structure of Crested Butte.

Section 13-105 of the county’s LUR states that if a building on a parcel exceeds 10,000 square feet or the aggregate of all structures on a parcel exceed 12,500 square feet that a Minor Impact Land Use Change permit is required. A minor impact permit application is reviewed and decided upon by the Gunnison County Planning Commission.

The standards for review of such a project are that it meet or exceed:

1. Finding of no obtrusive visibility
  - a. Minimize visibility of structure by siting
  - b. Minimize visibility of structure by screening
  - c. Location of utilities underground
2. Obtrusive visibility shall cause denial

The above standards are only applied to structures that exceed the residential building sizes.

“As with all permits Gunnison County will review the application for compliance with all applicable standards including protection of water quality and floodplain requirements,” Pagano wrote.

### **CB expresses concern**

During their May 17 meeting, the Crested Butte Town Council reviewed a letter they were planning to send to the county commissioners, regarding the development standards protecting the Slate River Valley.

“From an environmental perspective, the Town of Crested Butte is specifically concerned about the Slate River Valley and development throughout it,” states the drafted letter. “The River’s health and beauty are critical to the wellbeing of the Crested Butte community and all of Gunnison County.

“Crested Butte does not have a Comprehensive Plan and our Three-Mile Plan is 10-years out of date,” it continued. “Furthermore, we are concerned the County’s development regulations, like ours, may also need to be updated to better incorporate the challenges of today... We understand and respect jurisdictional authority. We hope you share similar concerns for the Slate River Valley. The Town looks forward to working with Mt. Crested Butte and Gunnison County this fall on shared regional challenges in the Upper Gunnison Valley.”

Former Crested Butte town attorney and former county commissioner Jim Starr advised the council, “I think for our community to offer its assistance is very, very helpful. While it will take some research and some data collection I think there’s a way to do this that will not overburden town staff,” he said, noting David Cooper, a senior research scientist who had done a previous study for the Slate River area in the ‘90s, has already expressed his willingness to help again.

“My request to council is that I can reach out to Jim to really understand what resources are out there that we can bring to the table and see if the county feels compelled to help,” said community development director Troy Russ.

Council agreed, and Russ plans to re-craft the letter with a request for a special study of the Slate River Valley and collaboration on evaluating the development standards.

### **County perspective: hands are tied for this round**

During the Gunnison County commissioners meeting on May 18, several people spoke during public comment about their concerns in the Slate River corridor, and asked commissioners to consider a moratorium on development there.

Tim Szurgot spoke as a resident of Wildbird, the pedestrian community also adjacent to the Slate River. Szurgot asked commissioners to place consideration of a temporary building moratorium on the agenda at their next meeting.

“This would be a pause in development along the upper Slate River between Gothic Road and Paradise Divide so that you, the staff, the town of Crested Butte and the public could make a timely decision on this critical issue,” said Szurgot.

He suggested that during this pause the commissioners could take a closer look at the allowed development under the current building regulations and possibly create a “special geographic area” to protect the water and wetlands quality and existing wildlife habitat of the Slate River corridor from over-development. He also



suggested that at least it would allow time to have some conversations within the community, and described several precedents set by the county and towns in the past for such a moratorium and special geographic areas.

“The economic reality is drastically different than when our LUR was written,” continued Szurgot. He implored commissioners to honor the previous efforts of people, governments and organizations that have protected “this unique landscape” for many years.

Jim Starr also echoed this request. “While the LUR has allowed buildings up to 10,000 square feet without any public input whatsoever, times have changed and we see more and more of these homes being proposed. I think it’s a good time for the county to look at that number,” he said, for wildlife, people and for water quality and water supply.

John Hess with Coal Creek Watershed Coalition also asked that commissioners consider this proposal, as did Dave Ochs and Rebecca White.

Commissioner chairperson Jonathan Houck responded to the comments to say there is not much commissioners can do about an existing application.

“We’ve received a fair amount of correspondence and concern. And it’s not being ignored by the board. At the same time...there are some parameters in which we have to operate when there is an active application,” he said.

County deputy attorney Emilee Gaebler reviewed how the regulatory changes could be changed and how they are limited in time. “It would not apply any future changes...retroactively to anything that is pending,” she explained. “That would all be tied to the previous regulation.”

Houck said on a broader scale the commissioners have been meeting with their planning commission, and discussing development in sensitive areas, as well as smaller square footage considerations not specific to the new application.

“We have been discussing the entryways into and out of Crested Butte,” he said, and how to keep the corridor between Gunnison and Crested Butte open and ranching production going.

“I want you to know your concerns are being heard by this board,” concluded Houck. But, he said, “With a specific application being filed within the county, we have to be thoughtful and considerate of how we handle the next steps,” said Houck.

Commissioner Roland Mason said he wanted to continue talking with the planning commission, and commissioner Liz Smith agreed that this was a new topic and area of concern in the last few weeks, but one she was ready to explore more.



# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

**Citizens Comments**

# **AGENDA ITEM 10**

**Future Meetings**

## FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- ▶ Legislative Committee Meeting - May 28, 8:00 AM
- ▶ Memorial Day Holiday, Offices Closed - May 31
- ▶ Legislative Committee Meeting - June 4, 8:00 AM
- ▶ Executive Committee Meeting - June 7, 10:00 AM
- ▶ Legislative Committee Meeting - June 11, 8:00 AM
- ▶ Gunnison River Festival - June 11-13th
- ▶ Watershed Management Planning Committee - June 14, 1:30 PM  
(With Presentation by David Gardner City of Gunnison)
- ▶ UGRWCD ANNUAL MEETING - June 28, 5:30 PM
- ▶ Independence Day Holiday (Observed), Offices Closed - July 5
- ▶ UGRWCD and WAE BOARD MEETING - July 26, 5:30 PM

# **AGENDA ITEM 11**

## **Summary of Action Items**

# **AGENDA ITEM 12**

**Adjournment**