



## *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

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

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

**Monday - January 24, 2022**

**5:30 PM**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

#### **REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

- |      |      |    |   |
|------|------|----|---|
| 5:30 | p.m. | 1. | Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction of Cheryl Cwelich, Watershed Program Coordinator</li></ul>   |
| 5:31 | p.m. | 2. | Agenda Approval   |
| 5:32 | p.m. | 3. | <b>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 December 8, 2021 Minutes</li><li>• Monthly Budget Summary</li><li>• Consideration of Operating Expenses</li><li>• Consideration of Non-Operating Expenses</li></ul>  |
| 5:35 | p.m. | 4. | Legal and Legislative Matters   |
| 5:40 | p.m. | 5. | General Manager and Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General Manager's Report</li><li>• Treasurer's Report</li><li>• Executive Committee Meeting<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Action on Board Meeting Schedule</li></ul></li><li>• Taylor Local User's Group - Letters of Interest and Recommendations<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Action on Renewal of 2022 Representatives' terms</li></ul></li><li>• Watershed Management Planning Committee</li><li>• Grant Committee</li><li>• Education and Outreach Committee</li><li>• Basin Water Supply Information</li></ul> |

- Wet Meadows Program
- Scientific Endeavors
- Long Lake Stakeholder Work Group
- Gunnison Basin Roundtable Update – January 17, 2021 Meeting
- Gunnison River Festival Update

**6:40 p.m. 6.**

**Break**

6:45 p.m. 7.

Miscellaneous Matters

- Infrastructure Bill (Water)
- Spencer Condo Association Meeting Update
- Homestake Mine Public Hearing in Saguache County
- Current Gunnison River Spreadsheet
- Monthly Energy Production Report – Solar Panels
- Newspaper Articles from December 2021 and January 2022

**7:00 p.m. 8.**

**Citizen Comments**

7:05 p.m. 9.

Future Meetings

7:10 p.m. 10.

Summary of Meeting Action Items

7:15 p.m. 11.

Adjournment

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



## *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

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

### **WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING Monday, January 24, 2022**

- |             |             |           |   |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|---|
| 7:20        | p.m.        | 1.        | Call to Order   |
| 7:21        | p.m.        | 2.        | Agenda Approval   |
| 7:23        | p.m.        | 3.        | <b>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 July 27, 2021 Minutes</li> <li>• Upper Gunnison Water Activity Enterprise 2021 Budget Summary</li> <li>• Adoption of Resolution 2022-1 to Set Posting Place</li> <li>• Consideration of Expenses</li> </ul> |
| 7:30        | p.m.        | 4.        | Meridian Lake Reservoir Update  |
| 7:40        | p.m.        | 5.        | <b>Adoption of 2022 Budget</b>  |
| <b>7:55</b> | <b>p.m.</b> | <b>6.</b> | <b>Citizen Comments</b>   |
| 8:00        | p.m.        | 7.        | Miscellaneous Matters   |
| 8:10        | p.m.        | 8.        | Summary of Meeting Action Items   |
| 8:15        | p.m.        | 9.        | 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  
Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 via video/teleconferencing at 5:30 p.m.

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

Board members absent: Michelle Pierce and Andy Spann

Also present:

Isabella Biondini, Gunnison Country Times  
Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager  
Jesse Kruthaupt, Trout Unlimited  
John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel  
Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Water Resource Specialist  
Jill Steele, UGRWCD Accountant  
Sue Uerling, UGRWCD Administrative Assistant/Communications Support Specialist

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**4. ADOPTION OF 2022 BUDGET AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of Resolution 2021-05 to Adopt the 2022 Budget. The motion carried.**

**Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Rebie Hazard seconded approval of Resolution 2021-06 to Appropriate Sums of Money for the 2022 Budget. The motion carried.**

**Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director John Perusek seconded approval of Resolution 2021-07 to set the Mill Levy at 1.951 mills. The motion carried.**

## **5. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

### **Manager's Report:**

- General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that she and General Counsel spoke at the Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association annual meeting on December 8. Sonja gave a general overview on the water year and John spoke about the Colorado River Compact.
- Sonja reported that General Counsel John McClow received an email from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) about the Memorandum of Agreement for the development of the hydroelectric generation facility proposed by Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) at the Taylor Park Dam. The BOR is now asking to be a party/signor on the Memorandum. John said he does not believe any of the other parties will have an issue with this so the Memorandum will be updated accordingly for signature.
- Sonja announced that the Colorado Water Congress will hold their convention January 26-28 in Aurora. Directors Nesbitt, McPhail, Nania and Carroll expressed interest. Sonja asked all directors to please contact staff by the end of the next week to confirm their attendance so staff can register participants and make hotel accommodations.
- Sonja showed a poster the District received from Henry Woods about the Red Sky Drum Group performing their sacred snow dance in Lake City on Saturday, December 18 in the town park. The Lake Fork Conservancy is sponsoring the event. Sonja made a \$100 donation for the event on behalf of the District through the Manger's Discretionary Fund and said that she will be going. The drum group is part of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

### **Discussion on changing UGRWCD Board Meeting schedule**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that she would like input about changing the current Board meeting schedule to having some of the meetings every other month with place holders for meetings if needed on the months off. Sonja noted that the current monthly schedule does not allow for adequate time for committees to meet and reports to be generated for the Board meeting since as soon as the current Board meeting is over and minutes are written, it is time to get the agenda and board packet out for the next meeting. The Board packets must be sent out at least a week in advance. A graphic of proposed meeting dates for 2022 was projected during the meeting. Director Bill Nesbitt said he felt this matter should be discussed first at an Executive Committee meeting scheduled in January. Vice President Stacy McPhail recommended that Board members provide their input to Sonja and that action on the dates be delayed until after everyone had time to weigh in.

A copy of the “Watershed Program Coordinator” job description was provided in the Board packet in advance of the meeting. Director Bill Nesbitt asked if the District should have advertised for the position. Sonja said that she conferred with Legal Counsel John McClow who said that advertising was not required. Sonja stated that an offer has been made to Cheryl Cwelich and Directors Rosemary Carroll and Stacy McPhail said Cheryl was a former UGRWCD intern and an excellent choice. Director McPhail noted that the Board had given Sonja their support at the November Board meeting to move forward with filling the position and that it is at Sonja’s discretion as to whom she selects to fill the position. General Counsel John McClow noted that the District did interview two candidates before the position was offered to Cheryl.

## **6. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

## **7. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Vice President Stacy McPhail referred to the Future Meetings listing provided in the packet and noted that the 2022 Draft Board Meeting Schedule is subject to change based on input from Board members. She offered that Board members should reach out directly to Sonja or President Michelle Pierce with any input.

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

Board members were reminded to let staff know as soon as possible if they want to attend the Colorado Water Congress convention January 26-28, 2022.

General Manager Sonja Chavez will take input from the Board about changing the Board Meeting Schedule for 2022.

Director Rebie Hazard asked if anyone from the District had been in contact with any of the Saguache County commissioners about the Homestake Mine reclamation proposal discussed at the November Board meeting. Sonja replied that no one had been in touch yet. Director Hazard said she had questioned Saguache County Commissioner Tim Lovato about the issue and he indicated that the commissioners had been advised by Homestake of their plans and that the County was on board with what Homestake had presented. Rebie noted that Tim Lovato is a former water commissioner and he has been following this issue for a long time. Director McPhail said she felt it would still be a good idea for the District to reach out to Mr. Lovato and the County to be sure they were fully aware of what Homestake’s proposal entails and possible outcomes.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Vice President Stacy McPhail adjourned the December 8, 2021 meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

John Perusek, Secretary

APPROVED:

---

Stacy McPhail, Vice President

DRAFT



**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Budget Summary 2021**

	November	December	Year to Date	2021 Budget	% Received or Expended
<b>Revenues</b>					
<b>General property</b>	\$ 3,479	\$ 5,714	\$ 1,342,750	\$ 1,347,248	99.67%
<b>Specific Ownership</b>	8,138	7,707	88,771	65,000	136.57%
<b>Pen. &amp; Interest on Taxes</b>	206	491	3,048	3,300	92.35%
<b>Interest on Investments</b>	30	26	7,713	52,500	14.69%
Water Quality Monitoring			-		
Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise	-	-	12,268	12,268	100.00%
Gunnison County	-	-	12,815	12,815	100.00%
National Park Service	-	-	7,839	7,839	100.00%
Skyland Metro District	-	-	1,393	1,393	100.00%
<b>Total Water Quality Monitoring</b>	-	-	34,315	34,315	100.00%
Aspinall Water Sales				19,885	0.00%
Aspinall Augmentation Late Fee	-	2	280		
Aspinall Unit Admin Fee	-	20	3,860		
Aspinall Water Sales - Other	-	30	20,599		
<b>Total Aspinall Water Sales</b>	-	52	24,739	19,885	124.41%
<b>Cloud Seeding Program - Passthrough</b>	-	-	90,750	93,750	96.80%
<b>Wet Meadows Project - Passthrough</b>	-	-	226,778	388,000	58.45%
<b>Watershed Management Planning - Passthrough</b>	-	-	58,657	174,000	33.71%
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	-	-	1,251	1,000	125.10%
<b>Unspent Funds from Previous Year</b>				32,325	0.00%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	\$ 11,852	\$ 13,989	\$ 1,878,771	\$ 2,211,323	84.96%
<b>Expenditures</b>					
GRF Expenses to Reimburse			\$ -		
Operating					
<b>Administrative Salaries</b>	\$ 26,302	\$ 26,303	\$ 294,481	\$ 315,635	93.30%
<b>Staff Salaries</b>	38,681	12,498	141,405	154,061	91.79%
<b>Payroll Taxes</b>	2,041	2,050	32,717	36,495	89.65%
Employee Benefits					
Medical Insurance	3,002	3,002	36,021	34,425	104.64%
Colorado Retirement Association	2,523	2,523	31,254	31,002	100.81%
Workers Comp. Ins.	-	325	6,780	5,000	135.60%
Gen. Counsel CLE & Memberships	-	-	1,394	3,000	46.46%
Gen. Manager CE & Memberships	-	-	290	2,000	14.50%
Staff Development and Training	580	-	1,796	4,000	44.91%
Employee Benefits - Other	-	-	-		
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	6,105	5,850	77,535	79,427	97.62%
Public Outreach					
Website Updates	-	-	2,474	1,000	247.40%
Public Education/Advertising	260	305	16,278	12,000	135.65%
Gunnison River Festival Support	-	-	7,500	7,500	100.00%
Mini-Grants	300	-	789	2,000	39.45%
Youth Conservation Corps Support	-	-	-	6,500	0.00%
Social Media	-	-	4	5,000	0.09%
<b>Total Public Outreach</b>	560	305	27,045	34,000	79.54%
<b>Audit and Accounting</b>	420		6,052	7,500	80.70%
Utilities and Assoc. Dues					
Condo Association Dues	550	550	6,600	6,600	100.00%
Utilities	145	583	4,371	2,196	199.06%
Office Cleaning	50	-	2,290	4,600	49.78%
Utilities and Assoc. Dues - Other	-	-	(374)		
<b>Total Utilities and Assoc. Dues</b>	745	1,133	12,887	13,396	96.20%
Bonding and Insurance					
Board of Directors' Bond	-	-	-	110	0.00%
Gen. Liab/Pub. Off/ Exc. Liab.	-	-	8,041	8,168	98.45%
AD&D	-	-	1,594	1,595	99.94%
Bonding for Persons with Access to Funds	-	-	401	401	100.00%
Bonding and Insurance - Other	-	-	3,564		
<b>Total Bonding and Insurance</b>	-	-	13,600	10,274	132.37%
<b>Office Telephone</b>	1,211	395	4,384	7,110	61.66%
Office Equipment					
Furniture	-	544	804	1,000	80.38%
Computer Purchase	-	-	2,919	4,000	72.97%
IT Support/Computer Repair	-	-	2,174	5,800	37.48%
Other Equipment	-	-	-	5,000	0.00%
Board Room A/V Upgrade	-	-	18,452	20,000	92.26%
Copier Expenses	267	486	5,087	4,380	116.13%
Office Equipment - Other	-	-	(1,177)		
<b>Total Office Equipment</b>	267	1,030	28,259	40,180	70.33%

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Budget Summary 2021**

	November	December	Year to Date	2021 Budget	% Received or Expended
<b>Legal Publication</b>	56	1,314	4,632	6,000	77.21%
<b>Admin.Travel &amp; Exp.</b>	705	-	12,394	22,000	56.34%
<b>Office Expenses</b>					
Spencer Ave. Reimbursable	-	-	-	-	
Office Supplies	709	483	6,220	3,100	200.64%
Consumable Supplies	31	-	772	1,200	64.31%
Publications & Subscriptions	12	12	1,038	1,500	69.21%
Computer, Internet, LexisNexis	541	993	16,020	6,250	256.31%
Software	1,592	-	8,456	4,800	176.17%
Office Expenses - Other	-	-	(864)	-	
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	2,885	1,488	31,641	16,850	187.78%
<b>Postage</b>	6	-	1,738	1,500	115.88%
<b>BOD Expenses</b>					
Travel Reimbursement	274	-	3,025	10,000	30.25%
BOD Discretionary Fund	-	-	-	2,000	0.00%
BOD Expenses - Other	-	-	(117)	-	
<b>Total BOD Expenses</b>	274	-	2,908	12,000	24.23%
<b>Meeting Expenses</b>				3,500	0.00%
WAE - Meeting Expenses	-	-	-	-	
Meeting Expenses - Other	272	-	3,489	-	
<b>Total Meeting Expenses</b>	272	-	3,489	3,500	99.69%
<b>County Treasurers' Fees</b>	116	202	42,377	42,466	99.79%
<b>Board of Directors' Fees</b>	-	-	-	13,520	0.00%
LSCWAE BOD Meeting Fees	-	-	80	-	
Board of Directors' Fees - UGRWCD	1,000	-	9,600	-	
<b>Total Board of Directors' Fees</b>	1,000	900	9,680	13,520	71.60%
<b>BOD Mileage</b>	164	8	869	2,200	39.48%
<b>Org. Memberships &amp; Dues</b>					
Colorado Water Congress Dues	-	100	2,351	2,060	114.13%
Colorado Water Congress State Affairs	-	-	500	400	125.00%
Colorado Water Congress Federal Affairs	-	-	-	200	0.00%
NWCCOG-QQ Dues	-	-	530	530	100.00%
Water Education Colorado	-	-	600	500	120.00%
Special District Assoc. of Colo	-	-	3,300	1,650	200.00%
Employers Council	-	-	2,117	925	228.83%
Weather Modification Association	-	-	500	300	166.67%
Org. Memberships & Dues - Other (Water Wkshp.)	-	-	3,500	-	
<b>Total Org. Memberships &amp; Dues</b>	-	100	13,398	6,565	204.08%
<b>Manager's Discretionary</b>	217	-	4,267	3,000	142.22%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 82,026</b>	<b>\$ 53,576</b>	<b>\$ 765,758</b>	<b>\$ 827,679</b>	<b>92.52%</b>
<b>Non-operating</b>					
<b>General Consulting - General Engineering Support</b>	\$ -	-	\$ 21,992	\$ 15,000	146.61%
<b>Recreational In-Channel Diversion - Webcam</b>	-	-	-	1,000	0.00%
<b>Taylor Park Projects - UVUWA</b>	-	-	7,436	6,377	116.61%
<b>LSC Admin Fee on Base Units</b>	-	-	13,464	13,464	100.00%
<b>Basin Augmentation Program - Subordination Report</b>	-	-	(1,383)	9,000	-15.36%
<b>Building Expenses - Repair &amp; Maintenance</b>	-	-	14,483	1,000	1448.31%
<b>Aspinall Water Costs</b>	-	-	19,942	17,326	115.10%
<b>Regional Water Supply Prog.</b>					
Grant Program	45,000	50,000	181,062	200,000	90.53%
Enhancing Resiliency Riparian (Wet Meadows)	-	-	-	418,000	0.00%
NRCS	-	-	-	-	
CPW Wetlands Grant	-	-	15,000	-	
BLM Coop. Agree. L17AC00255	412	2,523	23,820	-	
BLM Silt	-	-	8,365	-	
USFS PA-2 17-PA-11020407-00	-	-	10,000	-	
NFWF Phase II	-	2,170	89,342	-	
Enhancing Resiliency Riparian - Other	5,333	5,333	49,875	-	
<b>Total Enhancing Resiliency Riparian</b>	5,745	10,027	196,402	418,000	46.99%
<b>Cloudseeding</b>				118,000	0.00%
Irwin Remote Generator	63	95	12,826	-	
Cloud Seeding	-	-	67,373	-	
Cloudseeding - Other	-	33,473	33,473	-	
<b>Total Cloudseeding</b>	63	33,567	113,671	118,000	96.33%
Taylor River Watershed Modeling	-	-	16,378	40,000	40.94%
Selenium Long-Term Trend Monitoring	-	-	-	10,000	0.00%
Regional Water Supply Prog. - Other	-	-	12,259	-	
<b>Total Regional Water Supply Prog.</b>	50,808	93,594	519,772	786,000	66.13%

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Budget Summary 2021**

	November	December	Year to Date	2021 Budget	% Received or Expended
<i>Basinwide Planning</i>			-		
Watershed Management Planning			4,578		
Watershed MMP funds for Grants program	-	-	6,000		
CWCB PO 2020-2113	-	-	600		
NPS PO 2021-4821	-	-	9,653		
CWCB PO 2019-2891	17,431	-	68,300		
Watershed Management Planning - Other	16,234	4,641	106,516		
<b>Total Watershed Management Planning</b>	33,665	4,641	195,647	175,000	111.80%
Watershed Mgmt Pln Implementation	-	-	-	50,000	0.00%
RMBL Weather Monitoring Network	-	-	-	5,000	0.00%
Basinwide Planning - Other	-	-	-		
<b>Total Basinwide Planning</b>	33,665	4,641	195,647	230,000	85.06%
<i>Water Quality Monitoring</i>			-		
Streamflow Gaging	33,135	28,893	118,502	51,416	230.48%
Water Quality Monitoring	12,256	10,686	43,829	58,000	75.57%
Agency Pass Through Funds	-	-	-	34,315	0.00%
Watershed Stakeholder Support	-	-	10,000	20,000	50.00%
City of Gunnison Hazardous Waste Collection	-	-	-	2,000	0.00%
<b>Total Water Quality Monitoring</b>	45,391	39,579	172,331	165,731	103.98%
<b>Endangered Fish Recov Prog</b>	3,000	-	-	3,000	0.00%
<b>Spencer Avenue Reserve Contrib.</b>	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 132,864</b>	<b>\$ 137,814</b>	<b>\$ 963,684</b>	<b>\$ 1,256,898</b>	<b>76.67%</b>
<b>Contingency</b>				<b>\$ 24,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 214,891</b>	<b>\$ 191,391</b>	<b>\$ 1,729,442</b>	<b>\$ 2,108,577</b>	<b>82.02%</b>
<b>REVENUES OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ (203,038)</b>	<b>\$ (177,401)</b>	<b>\$ 149,329</b>	<b>\$ 102,746</b>	<b>145.34%</b>

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

UGRWCD		Instrument Type	Balance 9/30/2021	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Date Callable	Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE		
General Ledger # and Account Name	Bank Name						Deposit Amount	% of Total	
1	LPL Bond 13 (US Treas. Note) CUSIP 912828SF8	BOND	\$ 399,980.00	2.000%	2/15/2022	2/15/2022	1 LPL Financial (Was Sigma)	\$ 3,144,054.11	60%
1	LPL Bond 17 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130 AHDS 9	BOND	200,000.00	1.680%	10/18/2023	10/18/2021	2 Mountain View Bank	106,418.73	2%
1	LPL 19 Pac. Western CD thru LPL CUSIP 69506 YRJ O	CD	245,000.00	1.200%	4/17/2023		3 Bank of the West	455,448.53	9%
1	LPL Bond 20 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130 AJLA 5	BOND	550,000.00	0.750%	5/19/2025	5/19/2021	4 Community Banks of Colo.	245,936.10	5%
1	LPL Bond 21 (Fed Farm) CUSIP 3133 EL3P7	BOND	345,000.00	0.530%	8/12/2025	8/12/2022	5 Gunnison Bank & Trust	240,081.31	5%
1	LPL 22 Merrick Bank CD thru LPL CUSIP 59013KLR5	CD	249,000.00	0.350%	12/30/2024		6 Gunnison Savings & Loan	261,551.29	5%
1	LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	BOND	250,000.00	0.875%	3/17/2026	9/17/2021	7 COLOTRUST	782,019.44	15%
1	LPL Money Market Account	M.M.	74.11	0.010%	N/A		8 Petty Cash	100.00	0%
1	LPL Bond 24	BOND	500,000.00	1.000%	5/20/2026	5/20/2022			
1	LPL CD 25 Sallie Mae Bank CUSIP 795451 AA1	CD	245,000.00	0.550%	7/22/2024	1/21/2022			
1	LPL 26 (Fed. Home Loan Banks) CUSIP 3130 APBE4	BOND	160,000.00	1.000%	9/30/2026	9/30/2022			
2	11475 Mountain View Bank Money Market	M.M.	106,418.73				<b>TOTAL ALL BANKS</b>	<b>\$ 5,235,609.51</b>	<b>100%</b>
3	10100 Bank of the West Checking	CHKG	325,518.42	0.010%	N/A				
3	10410 Bank of the West CD 046907721	CD	105,411.54	0.350%	12/22/2022				
4	10420 Community Banks of Colo. CD 2577331487	CD	51,564.17	0.400%	9/26/2022				
4	11150 Comm. Banks of Colo. CD Lake City	CD	104,170.48	0.150%	2/20/2022				
4	10125 Community Banks of Colo. CD	CD	90,201.45	0.950%	6/20/2022				
5	10520 Gunnison Bank & Trust CD 26637	CD	200,000.00	1.900%	2/26/2025				
5	10540 GB&T - Spencer Avenue Reserve 2223589	SAV	40,081.31	0.150%	N/A				
6	101140 Gunnison Savings & Loan CD	CD	109,845.21	1.750%	8/10/2022				
6	101149 Gunnison Savings & Loan CD	CD	151,706.08	2.050%	10/18/2024				
7	10295 COLOTRUST PLUS+	COLOTRUST	324,231.27	0.025%	N/A				
7	10290 COLOTRUST PRIME	COLOTRUST	168,151.30	0.0051%	N/A				
8	10200 Petty Cash	PETTY	100.00	N/A	N/A				

**UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE**

CD	32%	\$ 1,658,317.66
Checking	7%	350,036.99
Savings	1%	40,155.42
COLOTRUST	15%	782,019.44
Petty Cash	0%	100.00
Bonds	46%	\$ 2,404,980.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 5,235,609.51</b>

TOTAL UGRWCD **\$ 4,921,454.07**

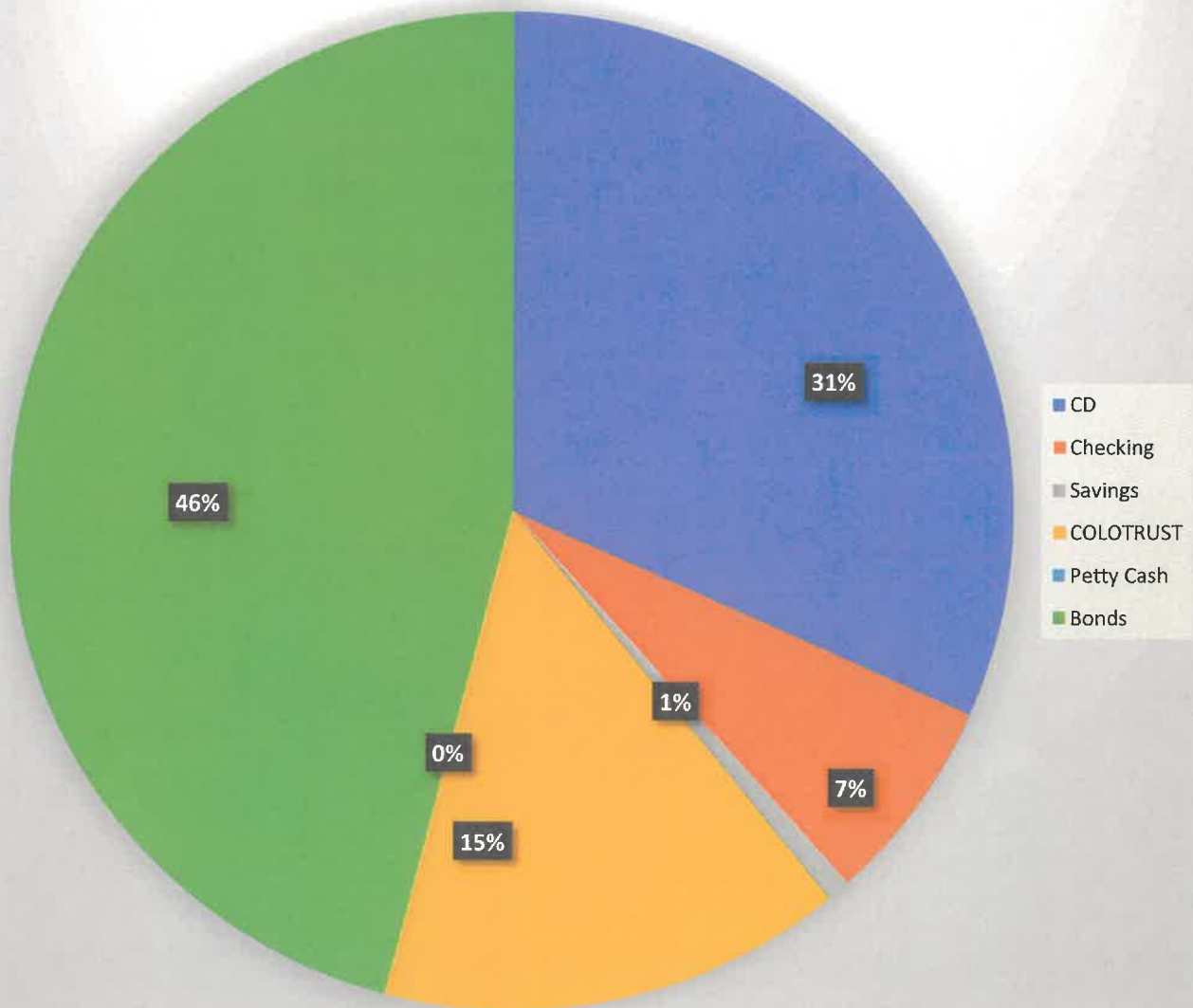
\$ 213,911.11  
 \$ (160,000.00)  
 \$ 53,911.11

UGRWAE		Balance 9/30/2021	Interest Rate	Maturity Date
Account Name				
3	Bank of the West Checking	\$ 24,518.57	N/A	N/A
7	COLOTRUST PLUS+	289,636.87	0.0251%	N/A
<b>TOTAL UGRWAE</b>		<b>\$ 314,155.44</b>		
<b>TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE</b>		<b>\$ 5,235,609.51</b>		

### UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	32%	\$ 1,658,317.66
Checking	7%	350,036.99
Savings	1%	40,155.42
COLOTRUST	15%	782,019.44
Petty Cash	0%	100.00
Bonds	46%	\$ 2,404,980.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$5,235,609.51</b>

### UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



1/16/2022

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

Name	Account	Amount
Anthem	Employee Benefits	250.14
Atmos	Utilities	101.14
Atmos	Utilities	75.78
BankCard Center	Various	7,511.17
Beverly Richards	Staff Salary	3,078.19
Business Leasing Solutions	Office Equipment - Copier	242.89
CEBT	Employee Benefits	2,201.07
City of Gunnison Finance	Utilities	125.60
City of Gunnison Finance	Utilities	73.12
Colorado Department of Revenue	State Withholding Tax	4,194.00
Colorado Retirement Association	Employee Benefits	9,722.54
Colorado State Treasurer	State Unemployment Insurance Tax	362.03
Colorado Water Congress	Administrative Travel - Annual Convention John McClow	100.00
Crested Butte News	Public Outreach = \$125.00 Legal Publication = \$926.08	1,051.08
EFTPS	Payroll Taxes	7,592.68
Fullmer's Ace	Office Expenses - Supplies	5.18
GL Computers	Computer Repair/Service - Monthly	400.00
GL Computers	Computer Repair/Service	638.65
Intuit Software	Office Expenses - Supplies - Checks	419.90
Jill Steele	Staff Salary	2,830.44
Jill Steele	Employee Benefits	277.53
Julie Nania	BOD Expenses	212.80
John McClow	Administrative Salary	10,257.61
John McClow	Employee Benefits	202.40
LexisNexis	Office Expense - LexisNexis	592.92
NWCCOG - QQ	Memberships and Dues	546.00

Silver World Publishing	Public Outreach = \$100.00 Legal Publication \$340.00	440.00
Sonja Chavez	Administrative Salary	6,109.81
Spencer Avenue Business Park	Condo Dues	550.00
Sue Uerling	Staff Salary	2,262.86
The Paper Clip	Office Supplies = \$58.01 Furniture = 543.85	601.86
United Healthcare	Employee Benefits	102.60
Verizon Wireless	Office Telephone	213.97
Weather Modification Association	Memberships and Dues	500.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses Payable</b>		<b><u><u>\$63,845.96</u></u></b>

1/16/2022

## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Non-operating Expenses for Approval

Name	Account	Amount
Alpha Mechanical	Building Repair and Maintenance	\$ 813.22
Alpha Mechanical	Building Repair and Maintenance	\$ 120.00
Applegate Group	Watershed Management Planning	7,375.30
Applegate Group	Watershed Management Planning	488.75
Bio-Logic	Wet Meadows	2,519.77
Dept. of the Interior, USGS	Streamflow Gaging = \$28,892.67 Water Quality Monitoring = \$10,868.33	39,579.00
Hartman Brothers	Cloud Seeding - Irwin Remote	28.99
JW Associates	Watershed Management Planning	5,207.50
JW Associates	Watershed Management Planning	4,152.50
Nesbitt & Company	Building Repair and Maintenance - Reimbursement for orange fence roll	46.82
North American Weather Consultants	Cloud Seeding	33,472.75
Rignet	Cloud Seeding - Irwin Remote	65.61
Spencer Avenue Business Park Condo Association	2022 Contribution to Spencer Avenue Reserve Account	10,000.00
Tomichi Creek Eco Systems Services	Wet Meadows Coordinator Salary	5,333.33
Tomichi Creek Eco Systems Services	Wet Meadows Program - travel	38.08
Town of Crested Butte	Grant Program	50,000.00
West Elk Handyman	Building Repair and Maintenance	715.62
Wilson Water Group	Aspinall Subordination Agreement	4,392.50
<b>Non-Operating Expenses Payable</b>		<b>\$ 164,349.74</b>





BANKCARD CENTER  
PO BOX 84043  
COLUMBUS GA 31908-4043

Account Number XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948  
Payment Due Date DEC 23, 2021  
Amount Due \$7,511.17  
Current Balance \$7,511.17

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

1245MSAB - 003001 - 0001 - 0003

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS \*\*N00003001  
210 W SPENCER AVE STE B  
GUNNISON CO 81230-2544

Amount Enclosed \$7511.17

⑆5868 250 13⑆55693 2000 15 27948⑈ ⑆0000 75 1 1 1 7⑆

**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
	\$3,401.12	\$7,511.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,401.12	\$7,511.17

**CARDHOLDER NEW ACTIVITY SUMMARY**

UPP GUNN RIVER WATER XXXX-XXXX-0177-3377 Credit Limit \$5,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$35.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35.35
SONJA CHAVEZ XXXX-XXXX-0153-1676 Credit Limit \$12,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$910.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$910.53
JOHN MCCLOW XXXX-XXXX-0153-1684 Credit Limit \$12,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$4,603.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,603.45

**For Customer Service, Call:**

1-866-432-8161

**Account Number**

XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948

**Account Summary**

Previous Balance	\$3,401.12
Purchases & Other Charges	\$7,511.17
Cash Advances	\$0.00
Cash Advance Fees	\$0.00
Late Charge	\$0.00
Finance Charges	\$0.00
Credits	\$0.00
Payments	\$3,401.12
New Balance	\$7,511.17

**Statement Date**

NOV 28, 2021

**Payment Due Date**

DEC 23, 2021

**Credit Limit**

\$100,000

**Available Credit**

\$92,488.83

**Amount Due**

\$7,511.17

**Disputed Amount**

\$0.00

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

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

**received**  
12/16/21



### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS STATEMENT

**Payments.** You must pay at least the "Amount Due" by the "Payment Due Date." Charges, payments and credits received after the "Closing Date" will be included in your next statement. The letters "CR" following the "New Balance" amount indicate a credit balance - do not pay this amount. Payments must reach our BankCard Center during our regular business day in order to be credited on that date. Payments received after the cutoff times of 6:00 p.m. on a Friday (or Thursday if we are closed on Friday) or 4:00 p.m. on any other business day that we are open, or on a day we are not open, or at a branch open on Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday, are credited as of the following business day. Later cutoff times generally apply at branches with extended hours. Business days shall mean Monday through Friday, except for bank holidays. If you fail to properly make payments, crediting such payments may be delayed.

**Order of Application.** We will apply your payments first to any membership fee or other fees, next to any finance charge or late charge, next to any Cash Advances included in your "Previous Balance," then to Purchases in your "Previous Balances."

**Unauthorized Use.** In the event of possible loss, theft or unauthorized use Company agrees to notify us immediately. Company may be liable for the unauthorized use of any Card issued under the Corporate Credit Card Agreement. If 10 or more cards are issued pursuant to the Corporate Credit Card Agreement, Company shall be strictly liable for any unauthorized use. If fewer than 10 Cards are issued pursuant to the Corporate Credit Card Agreement, Company will not be liable for unauthorized use of the Card which occurs after it notifies us orally at 1-866-432-8161, or in writing BANKCARD CENTER, PO BOX 84043, COLUMBUS, GA 31908-4043 loss, theft, or possible unauthorized use, and Company's liability for unauthorized use of the Card will not exceed \$50.00 per Card for use of Card by anyone other than an Employee prior to notice to us. However, Card in the possession and control of an Employee, even after his or her authority to use the Card has been revoked by Company, is not considered lost or stolen, and its use by such Employee is not unauthorized. Company must recover the Card from the Employee. Company agrees to assist us in determining the facts and circumstances relating to any unauthorized use of a Card.

1245MSAB - 003001 - 0002 - 0003

Statement Date	NOV 28, 2021	Payment Due Date	DEC 23, 2021
Credit Limit	\$100,000	Amount Due	\$7,511.17
Cash Advance Balance	\$0.00	New Balance	\$7,511.17
Available Credit	\$92,488.83		
<b>UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS</b>			
XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948			

### CARDHOLDER NEW ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Cardholder Name	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
BEVERLY RICHARDS XXXX-XXXX-0153-1692 Credit Limit \$3,000	\$369.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$369.25
JILL STEELE XXXX-XXXX-0153-1700 Credit Limit \$3,000	\$1,592.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,592.59

### 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

Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948				<b>TOTAL CORPORATE ACTIVITY</b> \$3,401.12 CR
11-22	11-22		PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT	3,401.12 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

Cardholder Name	PURCHASES	CASH ADVANCES	CREDITS	TOTAL ACTIVITY
UPP GUNN RIVER WATER XXXX-XXXX-0177-3377	\$35.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35.35
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948	\$910.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$910.53

Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
11-16	11-15	52708241320838008281497	STINKER #319 DELTA CO	35.35 ✓
Tax ID: 203986441 Mer Zip: 81416				
Time: 18:24 Srv Type: SELF Qty: 10.10 Unit: GAL Unit Cost: 3.50 Sale Amt: 35.35 Mer ID: 313077442884 Mer Addr: N MAIN ST				
11-01	10-29	75265861304433801155592	ONE STOP WASH GUNNISON CO	5.49 ✓
Tax ID: 454398020 Mer Zip: 81230				
11-01	10-29	85179391304980003413585	CAFE SILVESTRE GUNNISON CO	88.94 ✓
Tax ID: 840862924 Mer Zip: 81230				



CARDHOLDER ACTIVITY

Table with columns: Posting Date, Transaction Date, Reference Number, Transaction Description, Amount. Includes transactions for GUNNISON FIBER-MESH NE, EB 2021 VIRTUAL UPPER, WENDY'S 8814 DELTA CO, DENVER POST CIRCULATIO, PAYPAL \*GARLICMIKES, VISTAPR\*VistaPrint.com, SQ \*THE COFFEE TRADER, GOBINS INC PUEBLO CO, and Intuit \*PayrollEE usag.

Summary row for JOHN MCCLOW: PURCHASES \$4,603.45, CASH ADVANCES \$0.00, CREDITS \$0.00, TOTAL ACTIVITY \$4,603.45

Table with columns: Posting Date, Transaction Date, Reference Number, Transaction Description, Amount. Includes transactions for COLORADO RIVER WATER U LAS VEGAS NV, CAESARS PLACE ADV RSVN, COLORADO WATER CONGRES, AMZN Mktp US\*P664E5LD3, and LOGMEIN\*Pro2.

Summary row for BEVERLY RICHARDS: PURCHASES \$369.25, CASH ADVANCES \$0.00, CREDITS \$0.00, TOTAL ACTIVITY \$369.25

Table with columns: Posting Date, Transaction Date, Reference Number, Transaction Description, Amount. Includes transactions for CO GUNNISON CITY OF DENVER CO, CITY-MARKET #0419 GUNNISON CO, MSFT \* E0200GCVCE, AMZN RENTAL EXTENSION, OL MINER STEAKHOUSE, and Amazon Prime\*Z989974Z3.

1245MSAB - 003001 - 0003 - 0003 -

Statement Date	NOV 28, 2021	Payment Due Date	DEC 23, 2021
Credit Limit	\$100,000	Amount Due	\$7,511.17
Cash Advance Balance	\$0.00		
Available Credit	\$92,488.83	New Balance	\$7,511.17
<b>UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS</b>			
XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948			

**CARDHOLDER ACTIVITY**

JILL STEELE XXXX-XXXX-0153-1700		PURCHASES \$1,592.59	CASH ADVANCES \$0.00	CREDITS \$0.00	TOTAL ACTIVITY \$1,592.59
Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount	
11-01	10-29	55500361302083786902821	WALMART.COM AA 8009666546 AR Tax ID: 481279130 Mer Ref: 78690282 Mer Zip: 72716 Origin Zip: 72716 Dest Ctry: USA	34.47	✓
11-01	10-29	75306371302170300316555	REAL WORLD TRAINING 214-5150577 TX Tax ID: 752718242 Mer Zip: 75240	579.95	✓
11-05	11-04	55432861308200753983081	SQ *HIGH ALPINE BREWER Gunnison CO Tran: 00023058430147918 Tax ID: 800429876 Mer Ref: 00023058430147918 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Dest Zip: 81230 Dest Ctry: USA Tax: 9.11 Product Code: 099 Desc: Cold Beverages Qty: 500.00 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 10.99 Product Code: 099 Desc: Pizza Qty: 100.00 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 16.49 Product Code: 099 Desc: Salads Qty: 100.00 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 17.58 Product Code: 099 Desc: Pizza Qty: 100.00 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 15.39 Product Code: 099 Desc: Pizza Qty: 100.00 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 16.48 Product Code: 099 Desc: Pizza Qty: 100.00 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 15.39 Product Code: 099 Desc: Salads Qty: 100.00 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 7.69 Product Code: 099 Desc: Cold Beverages Qty: 100.00 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 1.10	121.33	✓
11-08	11-05	02305371310100121048983	OFFICE DEPOT #1080 800-463-3768 CO Tran: 208773785 Tax ID: 592663954 Mer Ref: 208773785001 Mer Zip: 80239 Origin Zip: 80239 Dest Zip: 81230-2544 Dest Ctry: USA Tax: 3.79 Product Code: 938498 Desc: FOLDER,HANG,LGL,PINK,1/5 CUT Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 40.89 Product Code: 705511 Desc: PENCIL,TWST,ERS3,.9MM,BE Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 6.99 Product Code: 515061 Desc: PENCIL,MECH,TWIST,BK,ERA Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 5.39	46.40	✓
11-08	11-05	02305371310100121049064	OFFICE DEPOT #1080 800-463-3768 CO Tran: 208789548 Tax ID: 592663954 Mer Ref: 208789548001 Mer Zip: 80239 Origin Zip: 80239 Dest Zip: 81230-2544 Dest Ctry: USA Tax: 0.95 Product Code: 925531 Desc: MARKER,SHARPIE,FINE,12/PK,ASTD Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 13.39	11.67	✓
11-15	11-12	55432861316200163671037	AMZN Mktp US*007468YP3 Amzn.com/billWA Tran: 111-8684189-88906 Tax ID: 202936165 Mer Ref: 1mkWQT5mhLrH4Lz7i Mer Zip: 98109 Tax: 2.00 Product Code: B01MEFAPFH Desc: Logitech M325 - Colour Collection L Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 24.43	24.43	✓
11-17	11-16	02305371321000605643092	USPS PO 0740860777 GUNNISON CO Tran: None Tax ID: 410760000 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Product Code: 120700 Desc: PurpleHeartMedal Qty: 3 Unit: NMB Unit Cost: 0.58 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 1.74 Product Code: 121100 Desc: Brush Rabbit Qty: 3 Unit: NMB Unit Cost: 0.20 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 0.60 Product Code: 119700 Desc: Uncle Sams Hat Qty: 20 Unit: NMB Unit Cost: 0.20 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 4.00	6.34	✓
11-18	11-17	55432861321200628708369	IN *OFFCENTER SIGNS LL 970-5965820 TX Tran: 151 Tax ID: 770034661 Mer Ref: APXXYP1T Mer Zip: 77399 Product Code: 7 Desc: CAR DECAL 15" CIRCLE WITH INSTALLAT Qty: 2.00 Unit: NMB Unit Cost: 90.0000 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 180.00	180.00	✓
11-22	11-20	15270211324000389488720	Teamviewer.com Goepingen FL Tax ID: 471173749 Mer Zip: 33760	588.00	✓



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

# Service Invoice

Invoice#: 3945

Date: 12/17/2021

License:

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

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

**Scheduled:** 12/09/2021  
**Time:**

**Employee:** 1002  
 WILLIAM BETKE

**Order#:**

Description	Quantity	Price	Ext Price	Sales Tax
11/29/2021 LABOR (BILL) NO HEAT AT FURNACE (YORK), CLOGGED CONDENSATE LINES FOUND, BROUGHT FLUE PIPE TO BETTER GRADE TO DRAIN & TRIMMED HOSE FOR BETTER FLOW	1.0000	120.000000	120.00	N
1 1/2" PVC FOAMCORE	3.0000	1.943000	5.83	N
12/1/2021 LABOR (BILL) TO DIAGNOSE FAULTY GAS VALVE OR CONTROL BOARD - PARTS ORDERED	1.0000	120.000000	120.00	N
12/09/2021 LABOR (BILL) TO REPLACE GAS VALVE AND RESTORE HEAT	1.5000	120.000000	180.00	N
GAS VALVE	1.0000	246.750000	246.75	N
12/16/2021 LABOR (JOHN) FURNACE OVERHEATING NEEDED RESET - REPLACED FILTERS (FRONT & BACK)	1.0000	120.000000	120.00	N
20 X 24 FILTER	1.0000	10.295000	10.30	N
24 X 24 FILTER	1.0000	10.338500	10.34	N

Date Rec. 12-17-21 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
 Mgr. Appr. SRC Amt. Appr. 8/3/22  
 Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account(s) Building Expense  
- Repair & Maint.

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

REPAIR PARTS ARE WARRANTED FOR 90 DAYS FROM DATE  
 INSTALLED AND/OR MANUFACTURERS EXPRESSED DATE

Thank you for your prompt payment!

Non-Taxable Amount:	813.22
Taxable Amount:	0.00
Sales Tax:	0.00
<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>813.22</b>



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

# Service Invoice

Invoice#: 4133

Date: 01/04/2022

License:

2021

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

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

**Scheduled:** 12/30/2021  
**Time:**

**Employee:** 1002  
 WILLIAM BETKE

**Order#:**

Description	Quantity	Price	Ext Price	Sales Tax
LABOR TO TROUBLESHOOT NO HEAT AT FURNACE CLEANED BUILT-UP CONDENSATE FROM INDUCER AND PRESSURE	1.0000	120.000000	120.00	N

Date Rec. 1-5-22 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
 Mgr. Appr. ORC Amt. Appr. \$120-  
 Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials [Signature]  
 Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account(s) Building exp.  
Repair & Maint.

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

REPAIR PARTS ARE WARRANTED FOR 90 DAYS FROM DATE  
 INSTALLED AND/OR MANUFACTURERS EXPRESSED DATE

Thank you for your prompt payment!

Non-Taxable Amount:	120.00
Taxable Amount:	0.00
Sales Tax:	0.00
<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>120.00</b>



# Applegate Group, Inc.

Approved to Pay: 12/8/21 SC

Date Rec. 12-8-21 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
 Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials [Signature]  
 Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account(s) Water Resource Planning

Water Resource Advisors for the West

Charge to:  
 - CWCB PO 2019-2891: \$4,781.25  
 - UGRWCD WMP (Gen. Budget Non Op Line Item 45): \$2,594.05

WMP = 2594.05  
 2891 = 4781.25  
 CWCB

## Invoice Memorandum

Date: November 22, 2021

AG Job No.: 21-106

To: Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy  
 District, Sonja Chavez  
schavez@ugrwcd.org

From: Craig Ullmann  
 Applegate Group, Inc.  
 1490 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
 Denver, CO 80234

**SUBJECT:** Invoice for Upper Gunnison General Engineering Support Services Cc:

Attached please find our invoice for professional consulting services provided for the period of October 2, 2021, through October 29, 2021, in the amount of **\$7,375.30**.

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

Phase	Current Invoice	Invoice to Date	Project Budget	Budget Remaining
<b>Task Order 1 - District Grant Program Projects</b>				
Application Review and Analysis		\$ 5,888.75	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 22,111.25
Site Time				
Delliverables and Recommendations				
Design Review				
<b>Task Order 2 - Ohio Creek</b>				
Data Review/Analysis		\$ 18,447.50	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 69,552.50
Site Time				
Mapping	\$ 2,167.50			
Conceptual Design	\$ 2,613.75			
Cost Estimates				
Delliverables				
<b>Task Order 3 High Priority Projects (Other Basins)</b>				
Strand Ditch	\$ 170.00	\$ 2,295.00	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 36,705.00
McCanne Ditches - Initial Assesments	\$ 467.50			
Hot Springs Reservoirs	\$ 552.50			
Town of Gunnison	\$ 255.00			
<b>Task Order 4 - Rapid Assesments</b>				
Project A		\$ -	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
Project B				
<b>Task Order 5 - Travel</b>				
Travel Expenses	\$ 1,149.05	\$ 5,613.74	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 386.26

**Total \$ 7,375.30 \$32,244.99 \$180,000.00 \$147,755.01**





*Water Resource Advisors for the West*

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

- Task Order 1
- Task Order 2
  - Preliminary design of Otis Moore, Gleason, and Hildebrand
  - Preliminary hydrology of Ohio Creek for use on Gleason/Otis Moore/Hildebrand work
  - Preliminary work associated with potential reservoir sites (Lidar download and storage volume estimates, existing water rights research, review of past studies, etc)
    - Kenny Moore
    - Cunningham Gulch Reservoir
    - Cunningham Lake Reservoir
    - North Mill Creek off channel site
    - Carbon Creek - Todd Castor Property and Silka Reservoir
  - Site Visits to potential reservoir sites in Ohio Creek
- Task Order 3
  - Initial evaluation of McCanne 2 and McDowell VT 1 using Lidar, aerials and diversion records
  - Site visit to Hot Springs Reservoir
  - Site visit to Town Ditch with City of Gunnison
- Task Order 5
  - Travel time and expenses for October 29, 2021

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding your account or project. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service.



**Applegate  
Group, Inc.**

*Water Resource Advisors for the West*

**Approved to Pay (SC): 12-15-21  
Charge to CWCB PO 2019-2891**

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

## Invoice Memorandum

Date: December 13, 2021

AG Job No.: 20-123

To: Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy  
District, Sonja Chavez  
[schavez@ugrwcd.org](mailto:schavez@ugrwcd.org)

From: Craig Ullmann  
Applegate Group, Inc.  
1490 W. 121<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80234

**SUBJECT:** Invoice for Gunnison and Tomichi Valley/ John D. Outcalt Ditch Study Cc:

Attached please find our invoice for professional consulting services provided for the period of October 2, 2021 through December 3, 2021 in the amount of **\$488.75**. Additional detail regarding this invoice and the project budget is shown in the table below:

Construction Services	\$ 488.75	\$ 4,179.71
-----------------------	-----------	-------------

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

Budget Remaining \$ 20.29

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

- Final inspection of channel grading and rock work
- Revisiting calculations and looking into issue with trash boom

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding your account or project. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service.

**Applegate Group, Inc.**

1490 West 121st Ave  
Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80234

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy**

**District**  
210 W. Spencer Avenue  
Suite B  
Gunnison, CO 81230

**INVOICE**

No. 51986  
12/13/2021

**Gunnison & Tomichi Valley Ditch**

**20-123.001**

Contract

For Services Rendered Through 12/3/2021

**1 - Site Visit/Data Gathering**

**Professional Services**

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Morris, Steven	.75	85.00	\$63.75
<b>Total Professional Services for 1</b>			<b>\$63.75</b>
<b>Total Charges for 1</b>			<b>\$63.75</b>

**6 - Construction Services**

**Professional Services**

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ullmann, Craig	2.50	170.00	\$425.00
<b>Total Professional Services for 6</b>			<b>\$425.00</b>
<b>Total Charges for 6</b>			<b>\$425.00</b>
<b>Invoice Amount</b>			<b>\$488.75</b>



125 Colorado Ave., Suite B  
 Montrose, CO 81401  
 (970) 240-4374

# Invoice

Date	Invoice #
12/15/2021	4050

**UGRWCD**  
**Attn: Sonja Chavez**  
**210 West Spencer, Suite B**  
**Gunnison, CO 81230**

Date Rec. 12-16-21 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
 Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials [Signature]  
 Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account(s) Wet Meadows

Terms	Due Date
Net 30	1/14/2022

Quantity	Description	Rate	Amount
	Project: Wet Meadows Restoration Resiliency Project		
	Period Covered: 10/19/2021 thru 12/08/2021		
	Task 1 Identify Potential Sites Subtotal:\$1,448.54		
15.25	Hours, Shawn Conner, Senior Scientist	90.00	1,372.50
	Subtotal Labor		1,372.50
	Overhead (3.5% of staff labor)	3.50%	48.04
50	Vehicle Miles (Dry Creek Basin)	0.56	28.00
	Subtotal Reimbursable Expenses		28.00
	Task 2 Develop Plans, Design and Permit Projects Subtotal: \$93.15		
1	Hours, Shawn Conner, Senior Scientist	90.00	90.00
	Subtotal Labor		90.00
	Overhead (3.5% of staff labor)	3.50%	3.15
	Task 3 SPVS. Crews, Vols & Contractors Subtotal: \$46.58		
0.5	Hours, Shawn Conner, Senior Scientist	90.00	45.00
	Subtotal Labor		45.00
	Overhead (3.5% of staff labor)	3.50%	1.58

Thank you for your business.



125 Colorado Ave., Suite B  
 Montrose, CO 81401  
 (970) 240-4374

# Invoice

Date	Invoice #
12/15/2021	4050

**UGRWCD**  
**Attn: Sonja Chavez**  
**210 West Spencer, Suite B**  
**Gunnison, CO 81230**

		Terms	Due Date
		Net 30	1/14/2022
Quantity	Description	Rate	Amount
	Task 4 Participate in Team Meetings Subtotal: \$931.50		
10	Hours, Shawn Conner, Senior Scientist	90.00	900.00
	Subtotal Labor		900.00
	Overhead (3.5% of staff labor)	3.50%	31.50
Thank you for your business.		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,519.77</b>
		Payments/Credits	\$0.00
		<b>Total Due</b>	<b>\$2,519.77</b>

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

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

Bill #: 90947884  
Customer: 6000001042  
Date: 12/09/2021  
Due Date: 02/07/2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date	Description	Qty	Unit Price		Amount
			Cost	Per	
12/09/2021	For the streamflow and water-quality monitoring program. Billing is every Federal quarter per agreement. 21REJFACO103	1	39,579.00	1	39,579.00
Date Rec. <u>12-14-21</u> Adm. Ckd. <u>A</u> Mgr. Appr. _____ Amt. Appr. _____ Bd. Appr. Date _____ Bd. Initials _____ Pd. Date <u>12-14-21</u> Ckd. <u>Pay.gov</u> Account(s) <u>WQMP</u> Stream flow gaging = 28,892.67 W.Q. Monitoring 10,686.33			pd. in	QB	<u>12-14-21</u>
			pd. via	Pay.gov	<u>12-14-21</u>

Amount Due this Bill: 39,579.00

Accounting Classification:  
Sales Order: 98522  
Sales Office: GCRE  
Customer: 6000001042  
Accounting #: 11218015

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

received  
12/14/2021



**Hartman Brothers, Inc.**

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



**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT**

Customer : M05447

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

Statement Date

Dec 31, 2021

Payment Terms

NET 30 DAYS

Date			T	Invoice	Delivery Note	Customer P.O. No.	Inv./Credit Amt.	Payment Amt.	Balance
Y	M	D							
2021	12	31	D	362189			28.99		28.99
Date Rec. <u>12-22</u> Adm. Ckd. <u>[Signature]</u> Mgr. Appr. <u>SRL</u> Amt. Appr. <u>28.99</u> Bd. Appr. Date _____ Bd. Initials <u>[Signature]</u> Pd. Date _____ Clk# _____ Account(s) <u>Closed Seating</u>									
<b>TOTAL -----&gt;</b>							<b>28.99</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>28.99</b>
<b>CODES (T) :</b>			I - INVOICE C - CREDIT NOTE U - UNAPPLIED CREDIT S - FINANCE CHARGE			D - CYLINDER RENTAL L - CYLINDER LEASE F - MONTHLY FACILITY R - MACHINE RENTAL			

CURRENT	31 - 60 DAYS	61 - 90 DAYS	90+ DAYS
28.99	0.00	0.00	0.00



**Invoice Number:** 2 **Date:** Nov 1, 2021  
**Project name:** Upper Gunnison River Watershed/Wildfire Assessment  
**Contract Number:** NA  
**Project Manager:** Brad Piehl  
**JWA Project Number:** 283 **Period:** Oct 1, 2021 to Oct 31, 2021

**Submitted to:** Sonja Chavez  
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
210 West Spencer, Suite B  
Gunnison, CO 81230

**Past Due:** \$0.00  
**Invoice Total:** \$5,207.50  
**Total Due:** \$5,207.50

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit to:** JW Associates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3759  
Breckenridge, CO 80424-3759

This invoice	Past invoices	Total	Budget	Remain. Budget
\$5,207.50	\$4,577.50	\$9,785.00	\$38,000.00	\$28,215.00





**Invoice Number:** 3 **Date:** Dec 8, 2021  
**Project name:** Upper Gunnison River Watershed/Wildfire Assessment  
**Contract Number:** NA  
**Project Manager:** Brad Piehl  
**JWA Project Number:** 283 **Period:** Nov 1, 2021 to Nov 30, 2021

**Submitted to:** Sonja Chavez  
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
210 West Spencer, Suite B  
Gunnison, CO 81230

**Past Due:** \$5,207.50  
**Invoice Total:** \$4,152.50  
**Total Due:** \$9,360.00

**Approved by:**  \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit to:** JW Associates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3759  
Breckenridge, CO 80424-3759

This invoice	Past invoices	Total	Budget	Remain. Budget
\$4,152.50	\$9,785.00	\$13,937.50	\$38,000.00	\$24,062.50

# NESBITT & COMPANY LLC

RESIDENTIAL • LAND • COMMERCIAL

January 11, 2022

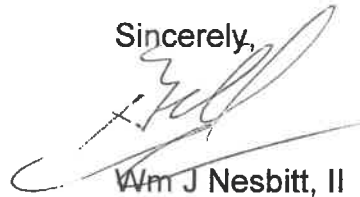
Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
210 W Spencer Ave, #B  
Gunnison CO 81230

Dear Sonja:

Attached please find the receipt for the safety fencing I purchased on behalf of the UGRWCD.

Please make the reimbursement check payable to Nesbitt & Company, LLC.

Sincerely,



Wm J Nesbitt, II  
Broker

WJN,II:kps

attachment

*Approved to Pay: SAC  
01/13/22*

Date Rec. 1-13-22 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) Building Expenses

104 E. Tomichi Ave. • Gunnison, Colorado 81230  
bill@gunnisonhomes.com • www.gunnisonhomes.com  
Office: (970) 641-2235 • Cell (970) 596-0922



**FULLMER'S ACE HARDWARE COMPANY INC.**  
**820 WEST TOMICHI**  
**GUNNISON, CO 81230**  
**A/P AND A/R: (303)531-2375**  
**PHONE: (970) 641-1212**

ALL RETURNS REQUIRE RECEIPT ISSUED WITHIN  
 60 DAYS AND ARE SUBJECT TO A RESTOCK FEE

NESBITT & COMPANY, LLC.  
 104 E TOMICHI AVE

GUNNISON CO 81230

CUST # 19378  
 TERMS: NET EOM  
 P.O. # UGRWCD  
 REF. # PO # UGRWCD

INV # 486402  
 DATE : 1/07/22  
 CLERK: NMP  
 TERM # 604

TIME : 3:48  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 \* INVOICE \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

QUANTITY	UM	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	SUG. PRICE	PRICE/PER	EXTENSION
1	EA	7055296	SFTY FENCING ORG 4'X100'		42.99 /EA	42.99
** AMOUNT CHARGED TO ACCOUNT **						
				46.82	TAXABLE	42.99
					NON-TAXABLE	0.00
					SUB-TOTAL	42.99
					TAX AMOUNT	3.83
					TOTAL INVOICE	46.82

ACE REWARDS ID # 1981408192

(NESBITT BILL )

X Manual Signature

# North American Weather Consultants, Inc.

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

## Invoice

Date	Invoice #
12/3/2021	21-2179

### Bill To

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

Proj #	Terms
21-473	Net 30

Qty	Description	Rate	Amount
1	Project Set-up; Cloud Seeding Program - November 2021	13,000.00	13,000.00
1	New Manual Generator	850.00	850.00
1	Operation and Maintenance of the New Remote Generator - November 15 - December 2021	650.00	650.00
35.5	Reimbursable Seeding Generator Hours @ \$10.50/hr - November Hours	10.50	372.75
1.5	Operation and Maintenance of the Lake Irwin Remote Generator - November 15 - December 2021	1,600.00	2,400.00
1.5	Fixed Monthly Operations Cost, Cloud Seeding Program - November 15 - December 2021	10,800.00	16,200.00
Date Rec. <u>12-13-21</u> Adm. Ckd. <u>[Signature]</u> Mgr. Appr. <u>ORC</u> Amt. Appr. <u>\$33,472.75</u> Bd. Appr. Date _____ Bd. Initials <u>[Signature]</u> Pd. Date _____ Clk# _____ Account(s) <u>Cloud Seeding</u>			
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$33,472.75</b>	





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

**Invoice** 202112\_472  
**Date** 31 December, 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

*2021*

**Airtime Period** 1 Dec - 31 Dec 2021

**Summary**

Total Airtime and Fees this Period	USD	65.61
<b>Total Amount This Invoice</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>65.61</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

Pay Online:  
<https://www.rig.net/payment-center>

Date Rec. 12/6/22 Addn. Ckd. [Signature]  
 Mgr. Appr. SRC Amt. Appr. 865.61  
 Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials [Signature]  
 Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account(s) Cloud Seeding

**Summary per Product**

Product	Charge Type	Amount (USD)
---------	-------------	--------------

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

Date Rec. 12/28/21 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
 Mgr. Appr. SRC Amt. Appr. \$38.08  
 Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials [Signature]  
 Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account(s) Wet Meadows

Name: Paul Jones

Position: Wet Meadow Coordinator

\$0.560

Date	Business Purpose	Travel		Meals	Hotel	Other Expenses	
		Miles	Reimbursement			Amount	Explanation
10/26/2021	South Cottonwood Gulch Flat Top mapping	44	\$ 24.64				
12/4/2021	Drop supplies off BLM	8	\$ 4.48				
12/8/2021	Transition meeting S Chavez, return supplies	7	\$ 3.92				
12/15/2021	Summary for GUSG Strategic Comm	9	\$ 5.04				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
			\$ -				
Totals:		68	\$38.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>Total Reimbursement:</b>						<b>\$38.08</b>	

[Signature] Paul Jones  
 Signature Date 12/24/2021

copy

## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Grant Reimbursement Request

**Date:** 12/17/21

**Project Name:** Gothic Field Raw Water Irrigation Project

**UGRWCD Contract Number:** UG2020-014

**Reimbursement Request Amount:** \$50,000

**Match Provided:** \$121,029.63

**Project Performance Period:** March 2020 – November 2021

**Applicant/Payee Name:** Janna Hansen

**Check Payable To:** Town of Crested Butte

**Applicant Address:** P.O. Box 39, Crested Butte, CO 81224

**Applicant Phone:** 970-349-5338 x 110

**Applicant Email:** jhansen@crestedbutte-co.gov

### **PROJECT DELIVERABLES:**

**Description of Project:** The Gothic Field Raw Water Project shifted water used to irrigate the 1.56 acre Gothic ballfield from treated domestic water to raw water by pumping water from Coal Creek via the McCormick Ditch to Gothic Field.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Engineered drawings were developed to pump water 483' from the McCormick Ditch to Gothic Field.
- A rainbird irrigation pump was designed and installed at the McCormick Ditch.
- Pipe was laid across Gothic Ave. at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> St. and Gothic and brought down to a filter station adjacent to the field.
- A filter station was installed.
- A new electric service was installed to power the pump.
- Electricity was brought from the Town Hall building to power the filter.
- Plumbing was done to connect the irrigation system to the new water source.
- Converted Gothic Field's potable water irrigation system to raw water thereby freeing up 1.2 million gallons of potable water per year (3.88 af annually) and enhancing system reliability particularly during peak times.

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

- Problem(s) / Changes:
  1. This project was originally slated for completion in 2020. The project design and planning commenced in the winter of 2020 right before COVID hit and was pushed back to 2021 by Town Council. The long duration of the project posed challenges in keeping engineers and vendors engaged and moving forward. We experienced significant delays in deliverables from the engineer causing this project to be pushed into the fall much later than we would have liked. The final fire up and connection will occur in the spring of 2022.
  2. The engineer did not have experience with this type of project and was not attentive to detail resulting in multiple errors and miscalculations on the plan sets and materials take-off sheet.





January 3, 2022

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



**RE: Upper Gunnison River 2020 Subordination Report Development**

Sonja,  
Below is an invoice for professional services of Wilson Water Group for development of the Upper Gunnison River Basin Subordination Report for 2020. Please let us know if you have any questions.

**Professional Services**

Staff	Hours	Rate	Total
Kara Sobieski	24.5	\$ 175	\$ 4,287.50
Stephen Foster	1	\$ 105	\$ 105.00
<b>Amount Due this Invoice</b>			<b>\$ 4,392.50</b>

WILSON WATER GROUP LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin M. Wilson".

Erin M. Wilson  
Principal

Date Rec. 1-5-22 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
Mgr. Appr. SRC Amt. Appr. \$4,392.50  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials [Signature]  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) Asp. Subordination Report

# **AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Legal and Legislative Matters**

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**General Manager and Committee  
Reports**

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**General Manager's Report**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** January 14, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** General Manager's Report – January

---

- I. **Treasurer's Report** – Update by Director Nesbitt.
- II. **Executive Committee** – Meeting scheduled for January 21. A verbal report-out will be given by Director Pierce.
- III. **Taylor Local Users Group** – No meetings December 2021 or January 2022.

### 1. **TLUG 2022 Appointments**

**Background:** The Upper Gunnison District is one of four signatories to the Taylor Park Reservoir Operation and Storage Exchange Agreement that was executed in August of 1975. This forms the basis under which the release patterns from Taylor Park Reservoir are determined annually. Each year, the District seeks input and direction from local users of the Taylor River, Taylor Park Reservoir, and the main stem of the Gunnison River above Blue Mesa as to how the reservoir operations can best be optimized for stream fishery, reservoir fishery and flatwater recreation, irrigation, and rafting and boating purposes in the Upper Gunnison Basin. This group of users is referred to as the *Taylor Local Users Group or TLUG*.

There are two terms expiring this year on the TLUG, therefore the Upper Gunnison District Board must appoint two citizen members to two-year terms on the Taylor Local Users Group. Advertisement for the open citizen members seats were placed in local newspapers. All persons appointed must be residents within the District and experienced and knowledgeable about river conditions along the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers.

Below are the two representative seats open and the citizens who submitted letters of interest to serve on the TLUG:

- **Flat water recreation** – Rory Birdsey (current representative)
- **Rafting / boating** – Marc Schumacher (current representative), Kestrel Kunz, and Rob Childerston.

**ACTION REQUIRED BY THE BOARD:** Appoint citizen members for flat water recreation and rafting / boating to the TLUG.

\*Letters of interest along with any letters of support received by the District are included in the board meeting packet.

#### **IV. Watershed Management Planning Committee**

- 1. Municipal Activities Supported by the UGRWCD:** The District will be working with the City of Gunnison to address improvements to their irrigation conveyance and distribution system. The project:
  - a) Begins at the City Ditch diversion off the Gunnison River north of town and includes diversion improvements;
  - b) Continues downstream to the headgate just behind the Paintbrush housing development and will include evaluation of alternatives for open and closed ditch system with trash screen that will lead to improvement in irrigation water management; and
  - c) Proceeds through the City of Gunnison and includes culvert replacement under residential street crossings and Highway 50 street crossings and ends where the water enters the Gunnison River again.

Activities anticipated in February include the development of a scope of work and budget estimate for pre-feasibility level planning for the entire project broken out by entity responsibility. The District will pay for engineering of system optimization improvements from the upstream diversion off the Gunnison River to the three-way splitter box behind Paintbrush utilizing WMP funds. The City will pay for planning / engineering associated with culvert replacement across City residential streets and Highway 50. With regard to financial support for the comprehensive project.

#### **2. Watershed and Forest Health Sub-Group**

- a) **Watershed Health and Forest Fire Zones of Concern (JW Associates):**

The watershed hazard analysis is complete with the exception of revisions to the wildfire hazard modeling. JW Associates is currently preparing different modeling scenarios to present to the District and the Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council. The zones of concern have been drafted and revisions are being made at this time. The climate change analysis is also underway and should be available by the end of January for input.
- b) **Watershed Science & Design Kick-Off Meeting:** Data collection is ongoing in the East and Taylor River basin study reaches. The majority of the work effort at this time is focused on the Taylor watershed due to the availability of

data and the existence of other on-going/concurrent efforts of other stakeholders in this basin. LiDAR data is being processed into relative elevation models. Assessment sheets are also being developed by Watershed Science for conducting on-the-ground river reach assessments. These assessments will be done with the help of the WMP Team.

- c) **Wetland Inventory & Mapping Update Meeting:** No progress to date. Anticipate a meeting in February between the District and Colorado Natural Heritage Program wetland experts focused on development of a scope of work.

### **3. Agricultural System Op Planning and Infrastructure Assessments**

- a) **2021 Gunnison River Restoration and Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Project:** The issue around the trash boom not floating has been addressed. As a reminder, the pipe supplier sent the wrong gauge pipe, so the contractor modified the boom by securing two PVC pipes on opposite sides of the heavy gauge pipe in order to make the boom float. It appeared to be functioning at low flows. An inspection of the boom will take place again in the spring at high flow. Staff are working on the final report and reimbursement request to the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership Program.
- b) **Storage:** The WMP Team is still actively examining potential storage sites.

### **4. Watershed & Stream Management Planning Report**

Staff continue to make progress on report preparation. To date, Phase 2 sub-basin hydrology and basin characterization sections are written (Taylor, Gunnison Mainstem, Tomichi/Cochetopa, and Cebolla). The Taylor River Basin report is the most complete to date and was the first basin we selected to develop using our new report template. Bruce Bartleson (retired Western Colorado University geology professor) was also hired by the District to write the basin geological summary descriptions.

### **5. Watershed Management Planning Stakeholder Outreach**

Stakeholder outreach planning for Phase 2 sub-watersheds will be the focus for the WMP Team during the months of February through early May. More information will be provided as plans solidify.

### **6. Environmental Assessments**

Now that much of the supporting preliminary assessments for agricultural infrastructure, stream fluvial geomorphology, watershed and forest health, zones of concern (will include protection of unique habitat or species), water-quality, etc., are underway, the WMP Team can now turn our attention to developing a plan for pulling together additional information related to environmental values we wish to protect or improve. Developing a plan, finding the right consultants and getting this work underway will be the WMP Team focus over the next few months. A final plan will be, in part, dependent upon outcomes from the forest health, wetland, and geo-fluvial assessments.

## **7. Recreational Assessments**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) continue to process a significant amount of data from the creel survey that took place this summer and early fall. We anticipate a draft report sometime in the next few months.

District staff also met with Gunnison County Public Works staff to discuss plans for improvements to Drop 2. Commissioners approved expenditures for pre-feasibility planning and engineering. We hope to have a preliminary plan and cost estimate by the end of March so that we can then move forward with preparation of grant applications.

## **V. Grant Committee**

No meeting during the month of January. Please see Grant Program Memorandum in Board packet provided by Beverly Richards (Water Resource Specialist).

## **VI. Education & Outreach Committee**

No meeting during the month of December 2021 or January 2022. Please see Education and Outreach Memorandum in Board packet provided by Sue Uerling (Communications Specialist / Administrative Assistant) for the monthly update.

## **VII. Basin Water Supply**

Please see the Water Supply Memorandum in the Board packet from Beverly Richards.

Note: There is an Aspinall Unit Operations Coordination meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The meeting will be conducted remotely. If there is any new information to share with the Board, a verbal update will be provided by the General Manager. Interested Directors can also contact the General Manager for the remote invite.



## **VIII. Wet Meadows Program**

Please see Wet Meadows Program Memorandum prepared by Cheryl Cwelich (Watershed Program Coordinator).

- 2. Other:** The USGS informed the District that there were icing issues with the stream gage below Taylor Reservoir which they were addressing. For other updates on Taylor Park Reservoir and snowpack in the Taylor River basin, please see the Water Supply Memorandum prepared by Beverly Richards.

## **IX. Scientific Endeavors – Update from Director Carroll**

### **X. Long Lake Stakeholder Work Group – Update from Director Carroll**

### **XI. Gunnison Basin Round Table Update – Update from Director Nania**

### **XII. Gunnison River Festival Update – Update from Director Fonken**

## **XIII. Miscellaneous Updates (Staff and Board Members)**

- 1. Infrastructure Bill (Water)** – Please see attached Memorandum from the General Manager.
- 2. Proposal for an Upper Gunnison Headwaters Wetland Mitigation Bank**  
At the time of the writing of this memo, the General Manager had not received a call back from Travis Morse (Senior Project Manager, Northwestern Colorado Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) regarding an update on the status of the Gunnison Headwater Wetland Mitigation Bank proposal. A verbal update will be given to the Board at the January meeting.
- 3. Homestake Pitch Uranium Mining Proposal** – Verbal update from the General Manager regarding Saguache County Commissioner meeting on January 18, 2022.
- 4. Status of Office Renovation for the Watershed Program Coordinator**  
The District is in the process of renovating the copy room into an office space for Ms. Cwelich. The copier and cabinets were moved to the front receptionist area. To date, the dry wall has been repaired where the cabinets were attached, and the entire room was repainted. Office furniture was ordered and the District is now waiting for the arrival and installation of the carpet and office door. We anticipate work to be finished by the end of January.
- 5. Spencer Avenue Business Park Condo Association**

The Condo Association board had its annual meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. One of the primary decision items coming out of that meeting was to not delay roof repairs another season and to move forward with seeking bid requests for the work.

For additional information, please see meeting minutes included in your board packet.

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

## **Treasurer's Report**

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Executive Committee Report**

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Taylor Local User's Group Representative  
Letters and Action**

Date: December 21, 2021

To: UGRWCD Board Members

From: Mark A. Schumacher

Re: Participation in Taylor Local Users Group

Dear Board Members,

Please take under consideration my desire to represent the boating/rafting user group.

I have participated in the process since it's inception in 1992. I have boated the Taylor Reservoir, Taylor River, and Gunnison River since 1972. I currently own and operate Three Rivers Resort and Outfitting, which serves the public through guided kayaking, fishing and rafting. Through my business I talk to thousands of persons each summer who are boating on the Taylor Reservoir, Taylor River and Gunnison River. These boaters are a mixture of commercial and private users, residents and visitors. I understand what each type of boater desires, whether it's kayaking, canoeing, rafting or fishing.

During my tenure as a board member of the UGRWCD I helped revise and refine the Taylor Dam operating criteria as issues and conditions changed. I have a good understanding of the '75 agreement and the district's "2<sup>nd</sup> fill" water right. For years I represented the district at the "four parties" meeting in Montrose every May.

I look forward in trying to understand the implications and operational changes considering the new operating agreement/stipulation with Taylor Placer Ltd.. Understanding the agreement and its impact on the historical operations and local user groups is a challenge.

I am also a private landowner and fisherman on the Taylor River. I have a good understanding how operations of Taylor Dam affects all user groups. Because of this understanding I feel that I can give input to the user group to find consensus on operations under all conditions presented.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Schumacher

**From:** Sonja Chavez  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 6:22 PM  
**To:** Sue Uerling <[sue@ugrwcd.org](mailto:sue@ugrwcd.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: TLUG appointments

Letter of support for Mark Schumacher

Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
210 West Spencer, Suite 2B  
Gunnison, Colorado 81230  
Office: 970-641-6065  
Mobile: 970-596-4066  
Website: [www.ugrwcd.org](http://www.ugrwcd.org)



**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 6:03 PM  
**To:** Sonja Chavez <[schavez@ugrwcd.org](mailto:schavez@ugrwcd.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: TLUG appointments

To the UGRWCD Board,

We are writing to support Mark Schumacher as the representative of the TLUG rafting/boating interests. Mark has the knowledge of the river flows, the presence in the boating community, and works right there in Taylor Canyon seeing what is going on. His history on this user group shows he can consider the other water users needs, and help strike the balance that is needed to benefit all the users within the parameters for optimal reservoir operations.

Mark has the experience and patience to work with this diverse and committed group, and we appreciate his dedication over the years.

Thanks for your time,  
Ches Russell  
Scenic River Tours, Inc.

Taylor Canyon Boathouse Office: 7049 Co Rd 742, Almont, CO 81210  
Gunnison Office: 703 W. Tomichi Ave Gunnison, CO 81230  
Mailing: PO Box 271 Almont, CO 81210  
Phone: 970-641-3131  
[info@scenicrivertours.com](mailto:info@scenicrivertours.com)  
[www.scenicrivertours.com](http://www.scenicrivertours.com)

**From:** [Taylor Park Marina](#)  
**To:** [Sonja Chavez](#); [Sue Uerling](#)  
**Subject:** TLUG Position  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022 9:28:02 AM

---

Good morning and Happy New Year! I was writing to confirm that I would like to continue my position on the TLUG board for the next duration and commitment. Please let me know if I need to send in a formal letter of intent. Thanks so much and looking forward to the new year and hopefully a great water season

Ryan Birdsey  
Taylor Park Marina



January 10, 2022

RE: Request for Letters of Interest Taylor Local Users Group Process

Dear Sonja,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Taylor Local Users Group as the rafting and boating representative. I am both personally and professionally invested in streamflows on the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers and I have a depth of knowledge regarding public and commercial use of these local rivers.

I have lived in Crested Butte for 4.5 years during which I have become intimately familiar with our local rivers, paddling them for enjoyment and as a professional kayak instructor. I initially decided to move here after joining local paddlers at "Taylor Tuesday". After meeting the local paddling community and paddling the Taylor River I fell in love with the valley and moved here promptly after. My love for our local rivers and watersheds has only grown since then.

In my role as S. Rockies Associate Stewardship Director for American Whitewater, I lead local and regional water policy and river management projects. One of those recent projects was working with the UGRWCD on developing a Recreational Use Study and Boatable Days Tool for the Gunnison Watershed Management Plan process on the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers. Through that project, I worked directly with rafting outfitters, angling outfitters, and the local river recreation community on identifying acceptable and optimal flows for these river segments. As a representative on the TLUG, I would be able to help inform flow-related discussions with the Boatable Days Tool in addition to my personal knowledge and experience of river flows.

In addition to my role with American Whitewater, I am a founding kayak instructor with the City of Gunnison's Youth Kayaking Program. The Gunnison and Taylor Rivers provide the perfect learning environment to teach whitewater kayaking and safety skills to local youth in the valley. The program is expanding and we plan to offer women's courses and other adult courses in the future. Instruct

Using my professional and personal experience of river flows and recreational experiences, I would fairly represent both outfitters and public boaters on the TLUG. My broad network within the local boating community and relationship with rafting outfitters and instructors would help inform and strengthen my input to TLUG discussions.

Thank you for considering my letter of interest to join the Taylor Local Users Group as the boating/rafting representative. I look forward to hearing back from you and it would be an honor to join the TLUG.

Sincerely,



Kestrel Kunz  
S. Rockies Associate Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater  
619 Maroon Ave. #2  
Crested Butte, CO 81224



January 10th, 2022

**Attn: UGRWCD**

Dear UGRWCD,

I am writing to recommend Kestrel Kunz as a local user group member to represent the rafting/boating interests along the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers above Blue Mesa Reservoir. Ms. Kunz is an energetic, knowledgeable and fair individual and I believe that she would be an excellent and contributing member of the UGRWCD.

I know Ms. Kunz as a local boater through my own recreation kayaking the upper Taylor River regularly during the summer months. She is also a (non-traditional) student in my physics course at Western, and therefore I know her on a more professional basis though this interaction. I would like to recommend her for this position base on the following list of qualifications that I am aware of:

- She is professionally engaged in local watershed issues through her employment with the *American Whitewater* organization. The Taylor river has been a particular focus of this work. I was a participant at the Taylor river race and the festivities that were tied directly to the Gunnison whitewater festival and I believe were supported through her work with *American Whitewater*.
- Ms. Kunz has written a number of letters (which were published) to the editor of *Gunnison Times* regarding the role of the Taylor river in the recent GMUG plan/proposal.
- Ms. Kunz has a patient and kind professional demeanor when working with others. I have seen this as she works with others in the laboratory sections in the course she is taking at Western. I can tell she would be a good contributing colleague.
- Because of her professional work with the river and familiarity with the private boater community, I believe that Ms. Kunz would be able to equally represent **both** private and commercial interests in the use of the Taylor and Gunnison rivers and work to ensure that all interested parties have fair access to this resource.
- Ms. Kunz is interested in pursuing a career in watershed management issues and I believe that this position would an excellent experience for her. As such, I believe that you would benefit for the enthusiasm that she would bring to the table.

I hope you will choose Kestrel Kunz to represent the rafting/boating interests along the Taylor and Gunnison Rivers above Blue Mesa Reservoir.

Sincerely,

John Mason (970-901-6947)  
Professor of Physics  
Western Colorado University  
[jmason@western.edu](mailto:jmason@western.edu)

January 10, 2022

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rob Childerston, I would be grateful for the opportunity to fill the position and represent the rafting/boating interests along the Taylor River and the main stem of the Gunnison River above Blue Mesa Reservoir.

I understand the complexities in which water rolls through our valley. I am a professional fly-fishing guide for Dragonfly Anglers and have been on the river almost 90 days a season for over 15 years. I have seen the good, bad and ugly so to speak, and understand first hand the many issues that may arise depending on the previous year's snowpack or lack thereof. In addition to river specific experience, I also spend a great number of days in both the Gunnison Basin and surrounding backcountry areas during the entirety of the year. Thus exposing myself to a greater firsthand understanding of the multitude of variables related to the potential discrepancies of Snotel Data versus accessible water within our watershed.

I feel as a member of this community since 1998, with direct interests in water and creating a win/win scenario for all users involved, I would make a great addition to this board.

Thank you for both your time, and your consideration of me for this position.  
Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Rob Childerston

[rob.childerston@exprealty.com](mailto:rob.childerston@exprealty.com)

303-868-4272

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Watershed Management Planning  
Committee**

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

**FROM:** Watershed Management Planning Committee

**DATE:** January 10, 2022

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

A meeting of the committee was held on January 10, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania, Jesse Kruthaupt, Sara Bergstrom, Nancy Johnston, Erin Wilson, Bella Biondini, Mike Tarantino, Ryan Unterreiner, Sonja Chavez, Sue Uerling, Beverly Richards and Cheryl Cwelich were in attendance. Rosemary Carroll was absent.

Agenda topics included updates on the Wet Meadows Program, watershed/wildfire and geo-fluvial assessments, County Whitewater Park recreational improvements, City of Gunnison municipal needs assessment, Phase 2 report status, and water quality and surface water monitoring program update as it pertains to the Homestake Uranium Pitch Mine in Sargents. As a result of these discussions the following action and discussion items were identified:

### **Action and Discussion Items**

- Staff will provide an update on the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Gunnison River Festival at the next committee meeting and see if Joellen Fonken (Director) can join the next WMP meeting
- Staff will contact Katie Jagt with Watershed Science and Design to begin discussions about approach to on the ground project identification. This discussion will continue at next committee meeting.
- Staff will continue working with the City of Gunnison to support fund raising needs for improvements to the City Ditch system.
- Staff will continue to work with the County on fundraising in support of Whitewater Park drop structure safety issues and improvements.
- Nancy Johnston will contact Dan Brauch with CPW to find out status of creel survey.
- Sonja Chavez will speak with Tim Lodato of Saguache County to determine the next course of action regarding the Homestake Mine meeting. This may involve attending the meeting virtually or in person.
- Staff will continue to compile report sections for the Phase 2 WMP report.
- Staff will continue to provide update on funding sources through the infrastructure bill.

### **Next Meeting**

Watershed Management Planning Committee – February 14, 2022 – 1:30 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Grant Committee Report**

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

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

**DATE:** January 14, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Grant Program Information

For 2022, the Upper Gunnison Board of Directors budgeted \$200,000 for the Grant Program. We have also dedicated \$50,000 from unspent grant funds during 2015-2020 to support engineering needs within the District including requests coming through the grant program. This will be the thirteenth year of the program and we look forward to the projects that will be part of this year's program.

### **Timeline:**

The timeline for the program is as follows:

- January 1, 2022 – Grant Program opens
- January 13 & 18, 2022 – Pre-application webinars provided with detailed information about the program.
- February 15, 2022 – Grant Program applications are due by the close of business (5:00 p.m.)
- February 15-March 1, 2022 – Staff and Committee will evaluate applications and develop recommendations
- March 2022 – Recommendations will be presented to Board of Directors for their approval
- April 1, 2022 – Award letters will go out and contracting will begin

Information and forms associated with the program can be found on our website at <https://ugrwcd.org/grant-funding/>.

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Education and Outreach Update**





## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Sue Uerling, Adm. Asst./Comm. Support Specialist  
**DATE:** January 13, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Education Committee Update

---

With the start of 2022, the following are action items that have commenced or been completed based on the 2022 Education Action Plan:

### **Action Items**

- Radio Advertising:
  - The District's underwriting for KBUT has been updated to include a more "winter-based" message.
  - New copy for radio ads to run on KEJJ and its sister stations is being developed. These new ads will be recorded at the end of the month to begin running in February and throughout the busiest portion of ski season during February and March.
  - New Outreach – We have contacted KVNF, a public radio station that serves Lake City and the surrounding area and are developing underwriting copy and scheduling spots to run for 13 weeks during the busy summer months.
- Newsprint Advertising:
  - The weekly streamflow/reservoir elevations/snowpack ads are running in the *Gunnison Country Times* and *Crested Butte News*. The *Gunnison Country Times* did increase their weekly rate by \$2 per display ad, which has been accounted for in the budget.
  - The weekly streamflow/Lake San Cristobal elevation/Slumgullion snowpack ads are running the *SilverWorld* newspaper.
- Collaboration with other Water Groups in the District:
  - We have contacted the Gunnison Rotary Club and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division about possibly collaborating with them on fishing tournaments at Blue Mesa Reservoir in 2022. A meeting will be held with the Gunnison Rotary Club on January 21, 2022.
- Water Message Promotional Items:
  - The District has submitted a list of several promotional products that could be imprinted with the District's logo to Kirsten Dickey at OffCenter Designs. Kirsten is checking current pricing and availability for these items and will get back with us before the end of January.
- River Clean-Up Program:

- Staff have discussed the possibility of the District hosting a River Clean-up Party at a date prior to the Gunnison River Festival (GRF) June 10-12, 2022. It was discussed that it could possibly take place at the same time of the City of Gunnison Community Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 23, 2022 (depending on snowpack) at the Whitewater Park. All volunteers in the city-wide clean-up would be invited to the Whitewater Park for the clean-up, followed by a lunch and possibly live music provided by the District. Volunteers also could be given a promotional item with the District logo and marketing materials advertising the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gunnison River Festival and UGRWCD. There was discussion that a clean-up could also take place at the Shady Island campground/parking either the same date or at a later date. GRF Director Joellen Fonken will discuss the concept with the GRF Board of Directors.
- Photography Intern John Murphy, a senior communications major at Western University, will be on his internship duties on January 18, 2022.

### **Completed Action Items**

- Mayors and Managers:
  - General Manager Sonja Chavez gave a presentation entitled “A Look Back at Water Year 2021” via Zoom video/teleconferencing on Thursday, July 6, 2022 at noon.
- 250 Copies of the children’s book *Drop: An Adventure through the Water Cycle* by Emily Kate Moon have been ordered from publisher Penguin Random House LLC. The books are scheduled to ship no later than January 28, 2022 and shipping times could be up to four to six weeks, per Penguin Random House.
- The UGRWCD’s Winter 2021-22 Newsletter was emailed to the newsletter email list of 175 members on January 7, 2022 and promoted on our website, Facebook page and Twitter.

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

## **Basin Water Supply Information**

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

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

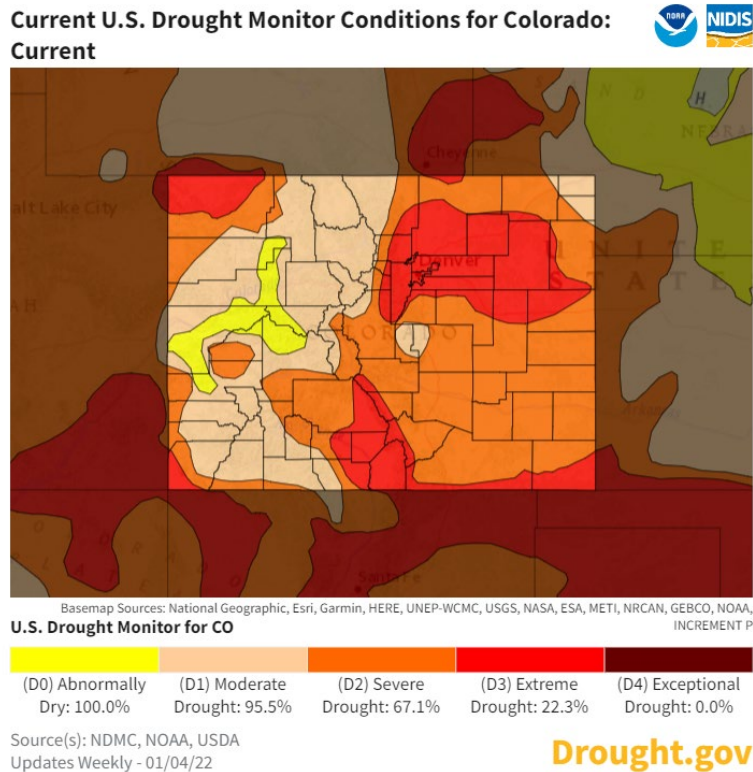
**DATE:** January 14, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Basin Water Supply Information

The information supplied as part of this memorandum is a monthly feature and includes information about drought conditions in the basin, snowpack information from NRCS, reservoir storage, and the Upper Gunnison Cloudseeding Program.

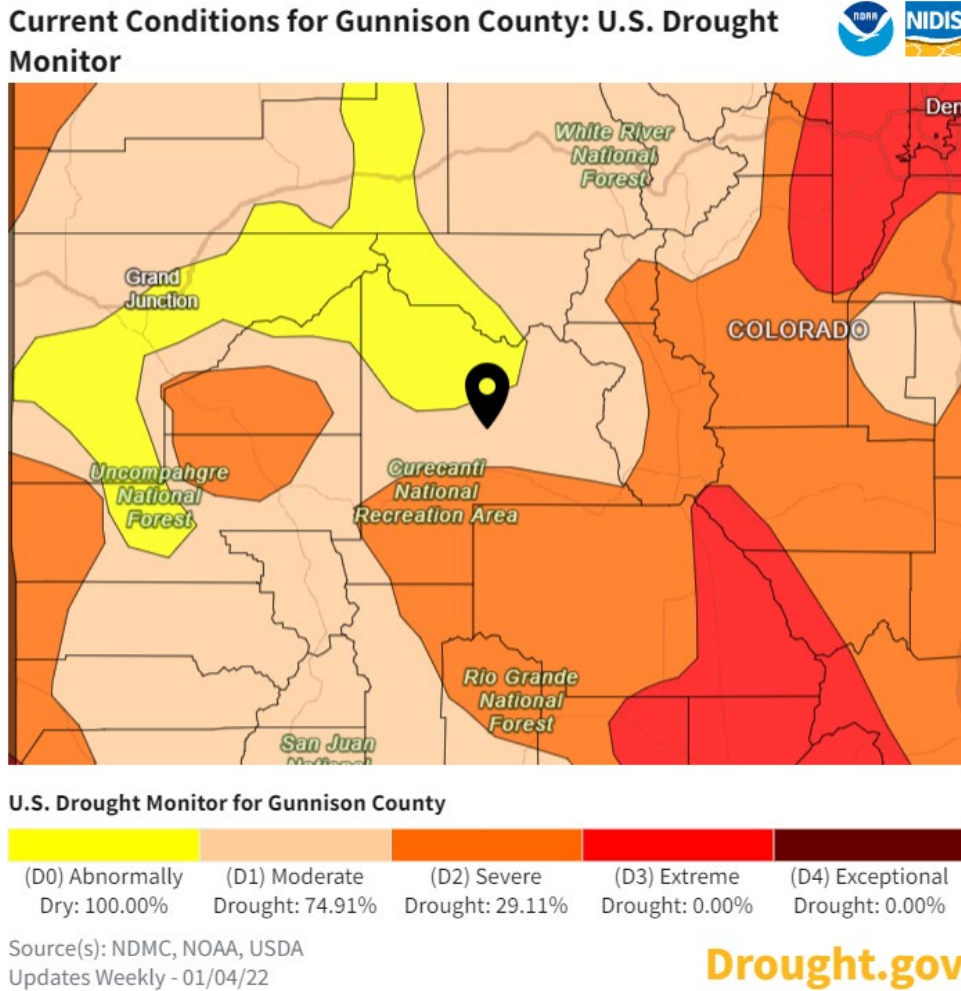
### **Drought Conditions:**

According to the *Drought Monitor at drought.gov* as of January 4, 2022, drought conditions are slowly worsening throughout the state with 22% of the state now experiencing extreme (D3) drought conditions. This is significantly worse than the November 2, 2021, report where only 6% of the state was experiencing extreme drought conditions. This is primarily on the eastern slope as precipitation has been almost non-existent since November. These conditions are reflected in the current conditions map for the state provided below.



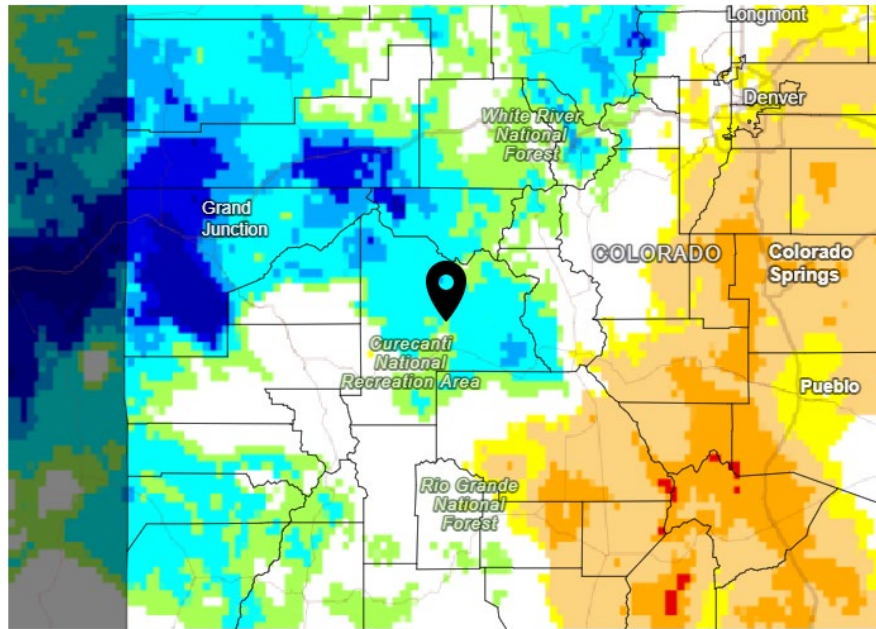
**Gunnison County**

Gunnison County fared much better the last month of the year. According to the *U.S. Drought Monitor*, dated November 2, 2021, 3% of Gunnison County was showing Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions, 68% Moderate (D1) conditions, and 28% Severe (D2) conditions which is some improvement from November 2020 when the county was 100% in Severe to Exceptional drought conditions. As of January 4, 2022, the conditions in the county are now 25% Abnormally Dry (D0), 45% Moderate (D1), and 29% Severe (D2). This is reflected in the current conditions map for Gunnison County provided below.



Short-term drought conditions for Gunnison County are reflected in the figure below. This figure shows the result of substantial precipitation in the basin during December where drought conditions are entirely in the wet categories for the first time in several years. However, the long-term drought forecast shows the county and surrounding areas returning to abnormally dry conditions. This is also the case for most of the western part of the state.

Short-Term Drought Indicator Blend: Short Term

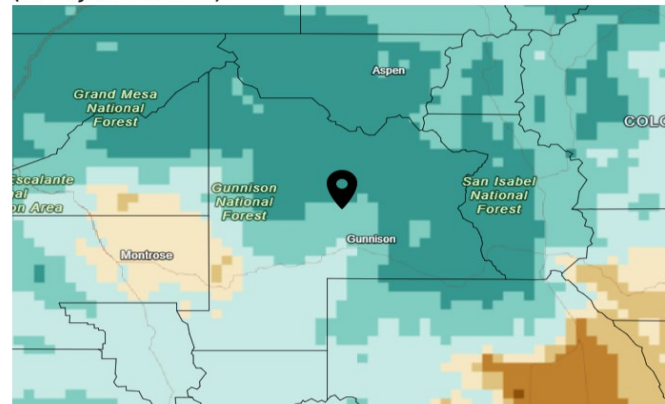


Source(s): UC Merced, Climate Engine  
Last Updated - 12/31/21

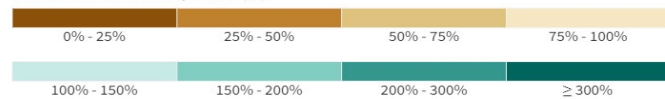
Drought.gov

As stated above, precipitation in Gunnison County over the last six weeks or so has helped tremendously with precipitation numbers ranging from 150% to 300% for the entire county. This is reflected in the graphic below.

Current Conditions for Gunnison County: Precipitation (30-Day % of Normal)



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

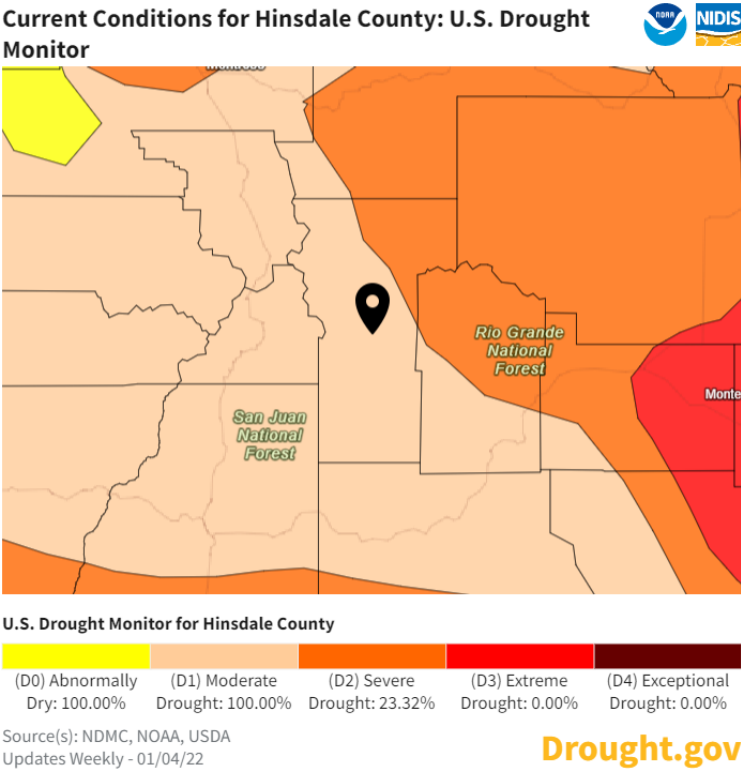


Source(s): UC Merced  
Last Updated - 01/08/22

Drought.gov

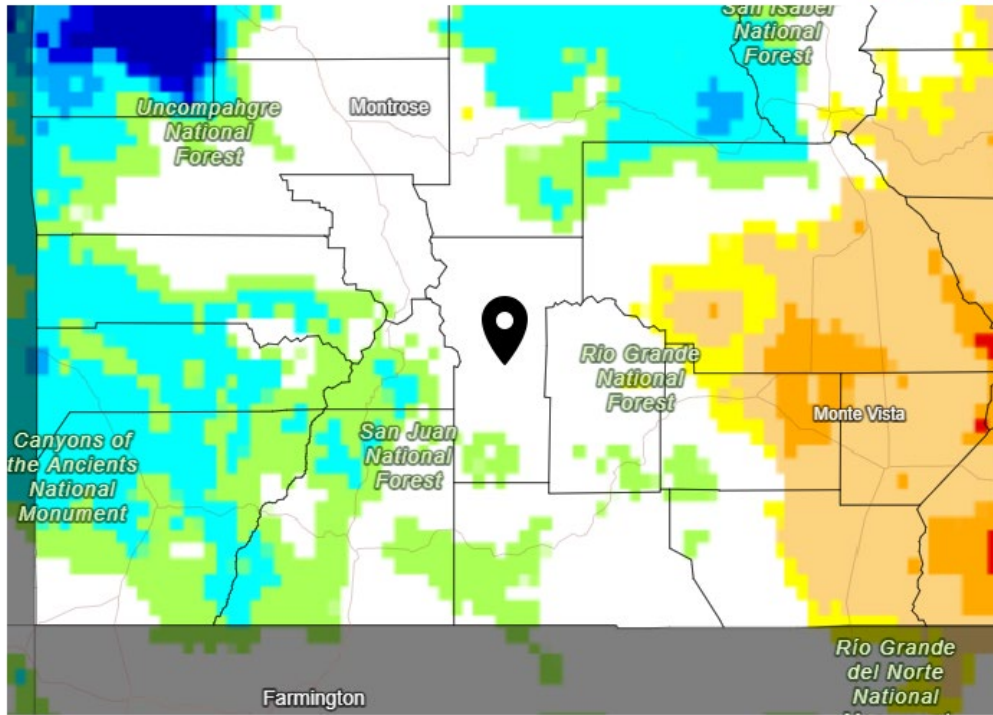
**Hinsdale County**

According to the *U.S. Drought Monitor*, dated November 2, 2021, 100% of Hinsdale County was experiencing Abnormally Dry (D0) or Moderate (D1) conditions. As of January 4, 2022, 100% of the county is now in either Moderate (D1) or Severe (D2). This is reflected in the current conditions map for Hinsdale County provided below.



Short-term drought conditions for Hinsdale County are reflected in the figure below. This figure shows that a good portion of the county was neither wet nor dry, which is indicated by the area shown as white and a small portion in the southern part of the county was abnormally wet. However, the long-term drought forecast shows the county and surrounding areas returning to severe to extreme drought conditions.

### Short-Term Drought Indicator Blend: Short Term



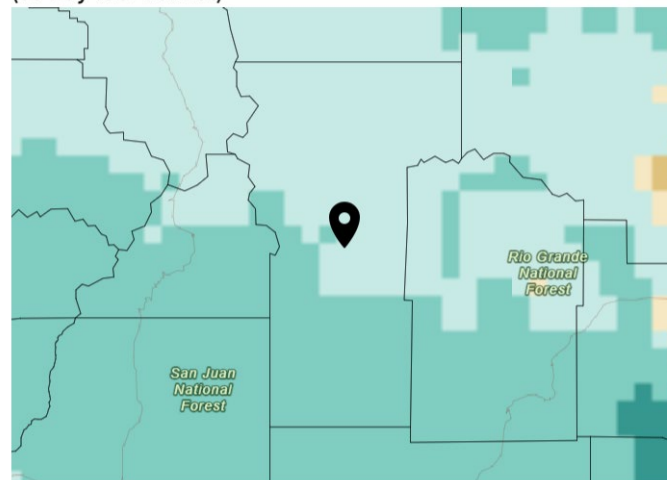
Source(s): UC Merced, Climate Engine  
Last Updated - 12/31/21

**Drought.gov**

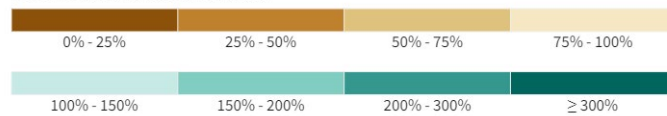
Precipitation in Hinsdale County over the last six weeks or so has helped with numbers ranging from 100% to 200% for the entire county and surrounding areas, see figure below. However, the SNOTEL site at Slumgullion is currently only showing 79% of average snowpack for the year.



**Current Conditions for Hinsdale County: Precipitation  
(30-Day % of Normal)**



**Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)**



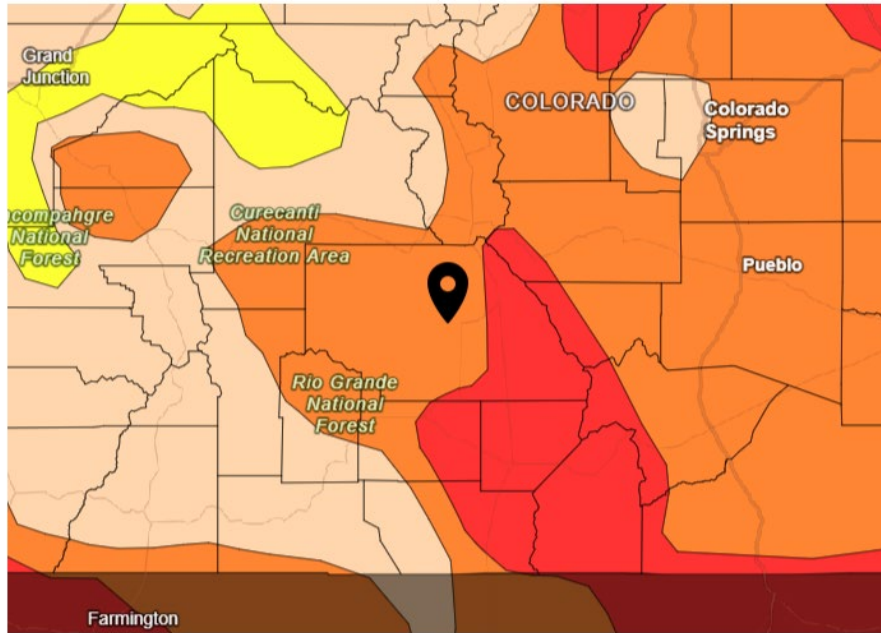
Source(s): UC Merced  
Last Updated - 01/08/22

**Drought.gov**

**Saguache County**

Current conditions in Saguache County have not fared as well as Gunnison and Hinsdale County and this is the case with much of the upper Rio Grande River basin. The entire county is now listed as experiencing Severe (D2) or Extreme (D3) condition. This is a significant change from conditions that existed in November where the entire of the county was in Abnormally Dry (44 %) to Severe (.63%) conditions. This is reflected in the current conditions figure below.

**Current Conditions for Saguache County: U.S. Drought Monitor**



**U.S. Drought Monitor for Saguache County**

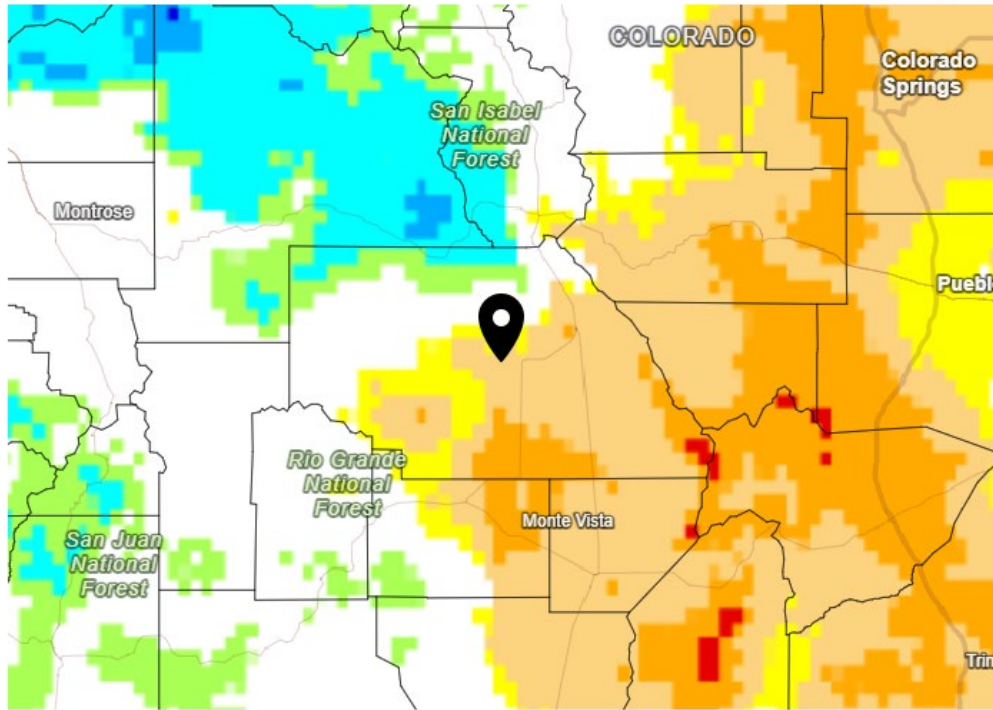


Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA  
 Updates Weekly - 01/04/22

**Drought.gov**

Short-term drought conditions for Saguache County are reflected in the figure below. This figure shows that the northern part of the county remains neither wet nor dry, but the southern part shows that drought conditions remain ranging from Abnormally Dry to Extreme in the most southeastern portion of the county. The long-range forecast indicates that Saguache County will likely return to 100% Severe (D2) to Exceptional (D4) drought conditions.

### Short-Term Drought Indicator Blend: Short Term

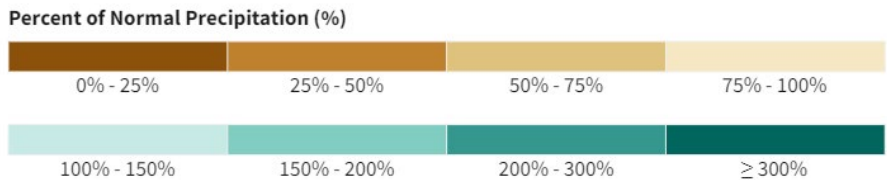
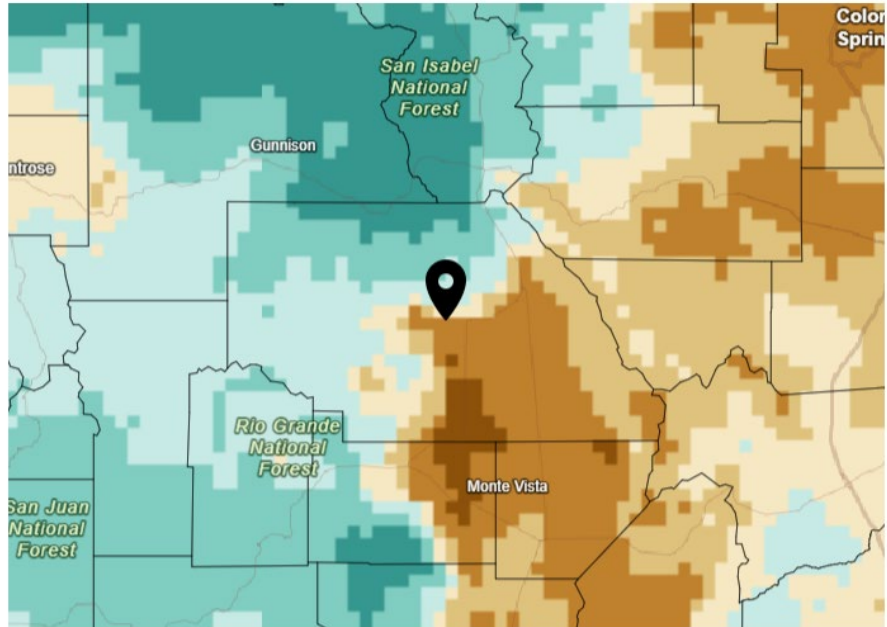


Source(s): UC Merced, Climate Engine  
Last Updated - 12/31/21

**Drought.gov**

Precipitation in Saguache County over the last six weeks or so has helped with precipitation numbers ranging from 100% to 300% of normal. However, the south and eastern part of the county remained dry ranging from no precipitation to 75% of normal. The snowpack for this area is currently at 94% of normal which is also impacting neighboring basins.

**Current Conditions for Saguache County: Precipitation  
(30-Day % of Normal)**



Source(s): UC Merced  
Last Updated - 01/08/22

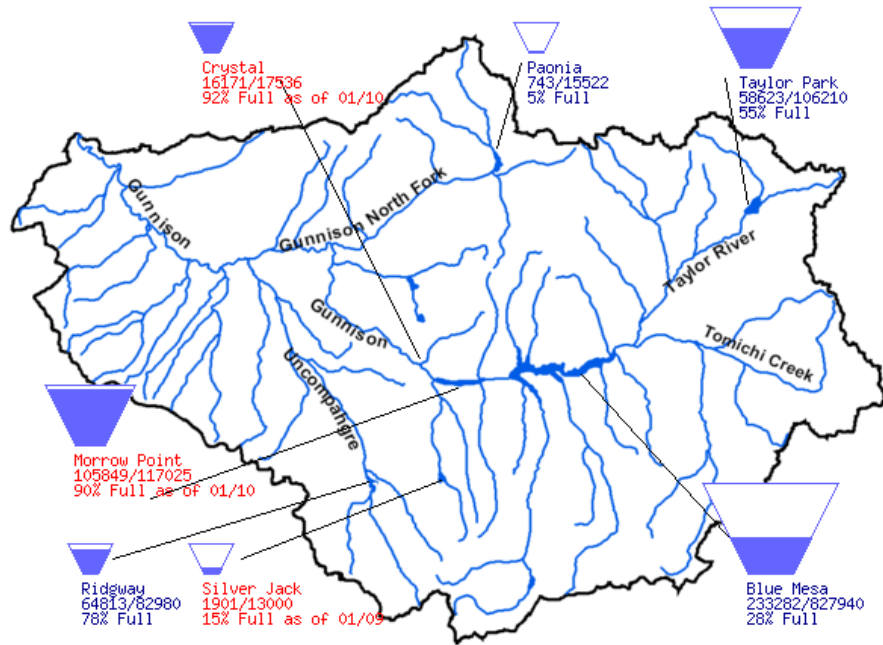
**Drought.gov**

**Reservoir Storage**

Reservoir storage in the Gunnison Basin is at 52% of full. The reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison Basin, Taylor and Blue Mesa, are at 55% and 28% respectively. This is reflected in the tea-cup diagram below dated January 11.

Data Current as of:  
01/11/2022

### Gunnison River Basin, CO



### Aspinall Unit Operations:

This update was provided by the Bureau of Reclamation on their *Aspinall Operations* website and is dated December 21, 2021.

The unregulated inflow volume in November to Blue Mesa was 26,536 acre-feet (88 percent of average). Unregulated Inflow volumes forecasted for Blue Mesa for the next three months (December, January and February) are projected to be: 19,000 acre-feet (76 percent of average), 18,000 acre-feet (75 percent of average) and 16,000 acre-feet (73 percent of average), respectively. The December 24-Month Study is reflective of these new forecasts. The 2022 median water year unregulated inflow volume is projected to be 689,000 acre-feet (74 percent of average). The water supply period (April-July) for 2022 is projected to be 480,000 acre-feet of unregulated inflow (75 percent of average).

In August, September and part of October, releases were increased in response to a continual declining dry hydrologic condition for the Colorado River system. This drought operation was implemented under the Upper Basin Drought Response Operations Agreement. The intent of this operation was to support Lake Powell water levels critical to maintaining hydropower operations.

Blue Mesa did not fill in water year 2021 (Colorado River Basin Forecast Center *Colorado Climate and Drought Update* presented on October 11). The reservoir is unlikely to fill in water year 2022 unless we maintain substantial (i.e., well above average) snowpack through March and April. Blue Mesa reached a peak elevation of 7,464.28 feet on June 22, 2021. The elevation reached a low elevation 7429.49 feet on November 1, 2021, with a storage level of 208,761 acre-feet (25% of full capacity). The elevation is now increasing due to precipitation events that occurred in December and early January.

The next Aspinall Operations Group meeting will be held on January 20, 2022, at 1:00 pm MST. The meeting will be held virtually.

### **Taylor Park Reservoir Operations:**

The Bureau of Reclamation provided an update of Taylor Park Reservoir operations using the January 1 forecast from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center. This forecast indicated that there will be 98,000 acre-feet of runoff flowing into the reservoir which is 104% of average. This runoff forecast put the year type in the Average Year category. The requirement for this year type category is to maintain a spring peak release of 445 cfs for a period of 5 days. Using this information would result in an end of year content of 70,000 acre-feet in the reservoir. This preliminary operations plan shows the reservoir filling to a maximum seasonal content of 92,900 acre-feet which is 87% full. Releases from the reservoir continue at the winter flow rate of 72.5 cfs and will continue at that level until March.

Snowpack in the Taylor Park watershed is currently at 130% of normal with December snow accumulation at 227% of average for the entire Upper Gunnison River basin. The best snow conditions exist in the northern part of the basin particularly around the East River and Taylor River watersheds.

### **Meridian Lake Reservoir and Lake San Cristobal Update:**

The current elevation (October 19) for Meridian Lake Reservoir is 9605.48 which is 634.9 acre-feet of storage. This is down from the August level of 9606.15 or 676.2 acre-feet of storage. The level was reduced in part due to releases made from the lake to augment the in-stream flow call which ran for a total of 41 days, August-October.

The current elevation (January 12) for Lake San Cristobal is 8994.17 which is down slightly from the November 1 reading of 8994.63. The flows out of the reservoir are currently at 13.9 cfs. We spoke with Dan Brauch with CPW on the flows not meeting the winter rate of the instream flow and his response is below:

*Since the base flow period through the winter is pretty long and we do not have a lot of stored water to work with to benefit the fishery, I would not recommend trying to bump flows up to meet the 20 cfs, but would also want to be sure we are maintaining base flows by passing through inflows to maintain stream habitat downstream of Lake San Cristobal, especially since we are currently not meeting the 20 cfs.*

### **Lake Powell Update:**

The Upper Basin Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) provisions to protect a target elevation at Lake Powell of 3,525 feet were completed in October 2021. The additional 161 thousand acre-feet (kaf) releases from the upstream initial units of the Colorado River Storage Project Act began in July and ended in October 2021. The table below contains the observed DROA releases:

## DROA Releases for the December 24MS Model Run

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
	(kaf)	(kaf)	(kaf)	(kaf)	(kaf)	(kaf)	Sum
Flaming Gorge	12	45	44	24	0	0	125
Blue Mesa	0	17	16	3	0	0	36
Navajo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sum:	12	62	60	27	0	0	161

The releases detailed above are in addition to the already established releases determined by operational plans for each of the identified facilities. The additional delivery of 161 kaf is equivalent to Lake Powell's elevation of approximately 2.56 feet.

The unregulated inflow volume to Lake Powell during November was 346 kaf (83% of average). The release volume from Glen Canyon Dam in November was 500 kaf. The end of November elevation and storage of Lake Powell were 3,541.84 feet (158 feet from full pool) and 7.02 million acre-feet (maf) (29% of live capacity), respectively.

Effective January 1, 2022, the Bureau of Reclamation began monthly operational adjustment at Glen Canyon Dam. This was done to take initial steps to protect the reservoir's target elevation of 3,525 feet. As of January 5, Lake Powell's water surface elevation measured 3,536 feet which is just 11 feet above the target elevation. Without the changes to monthly water releases, the reservoir's elevation was projected to steadily decline below the target elevation through the winter months.

The monthly volume of water released from Glen Canyon Dam is being adjusted to hold back 350 kaf of water in Lake Powell from January to April when inflow to the reservoir is low. The same amount of water will then be released to Lake Mead between June and September after the spring runoff occurs. The annual volume of water released from Glen Canyon is unchanged by these adjustments.

According to the Bureau, making these adjustments is essential to protect Lake Powell from dropping to critically low elevation levels. Although the basin had substantial snowstorms in December, these are still necessary to protect the elevation in Lake Powell. This modified release pattern was put into action following meetings with basin partners including basin state, Tribes, federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and water managers.

Water year 2022 in the Colorado River Basin began with a wetter-than-normal October, but it was followed by the second-driest November on record and resulted in a loss of 1.5 maf of inflow for Lake Powell compared to the previous month's projections. December projections showed the reservoir dropping below the target elevation as early as February 2022. While the basin recently experienced substantial snowpack, critically low reservoir levels coupled with uncertainty about future snowpack necessitated action. Reclamation will closely monitor the basin's hydrology and will release updated projections as they become available (*Bureau of Reclamation News Release dated January 7, 2022*).

**Cloudseeding Report (North American Weather Consultants; NAWC) & SWE in the Snowpack:**

Cloudseeding efforts began again on November 15, 2021, with little cloudseeding being done in the last half of the month. For December the weather pattern was categorized as wet and active across the Gunnison Basin. There were several moderate storms and a few stronger storms occurring in that time frame. According the NAWC report dated January 4, 2022, these storms were in a southwest flow pattern which is less favorable for using the remote generator located at Lake Irwin, so this site was not used as much as some others. The *Colorado Climate Center* stated that Schofield Pass had its wettest 10-day stretch on record in December.

Table 1 below shows SWE for the water year as of January 1, 2022.

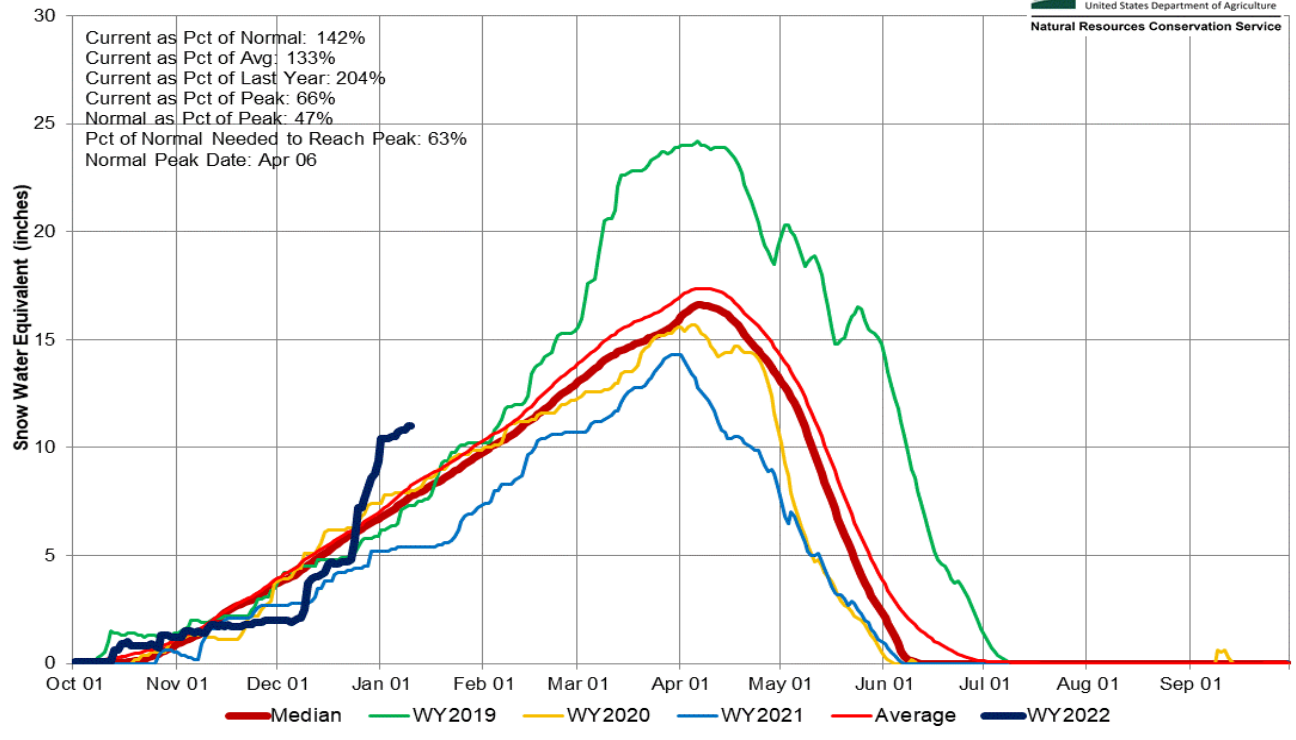
Measurement Site	Snow Water Equivalent (inch)		Water Year Precipitation (inch)	
	1-1-22	Percent of Average	1-1-22	Percent of Average
Butte	8.7	158	9.8	140
Schofield Pass	23.5	184	25.6	194
Park Cone	7.3	182	7.3	138
Porphyry Creek	8.6	139	9.8	158
Slumgullion	5.4	83	5.6	85
<b>Upper Gunnison Basin %</b>		<b>149</b>		<b>143</b>

As of January 1, 2022, snow water equivalent in the Upper Gunnison Basin was above normal, with a basin-wide average of 149%. Water year precipitation was also above normal, at an average of 143%. The *Colorado Climate Center* stated that Schofield Pass had its wettest 10-day stretch on record in December.

The figure below summarizes SWE for the entire Gunnison River Basin as of January 10, 2022. This information is provided by *NRCS*. The graph represents snowpack as the current percent of normal (142), the current percent in comparison to last year (204), and the current percent for years 1991-2020 (66).



**Gunnison River Basin Time Series Snowpack Summary**  
 Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Jan 10, 2022




---

*Think More Snow!*

---

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Wet Meadows Project Update**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Cheryl Cwelich, Watershed Program Coordinator  
**DATE:** January 14, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Wet Meadows Program Update

---

With the start of 2022, the following are action items that have commenced or been completed in the Wet Meadows Restoration and Resiliency Building Program (WMRRBP):

### **Completed Action Items**

- Onboarding of new coordinator
- Scope of Work for Cheryl Cwelich transition to Coordinator
- BLM L19 grant for Silt-Bohr Flats
  - Submission of Progress Financial Report and ASAP Draw
- New Project Planning Templates Developed
  - Project Site Planning
  - Contractor/Crew Calendar
- 2022 Kick-off Wet Meadows Planning Meeting:
  - 2022 Restoration Construction Sites:
    - BLM - Upper Cottonwood Gulch, Lower Cottonwood Gulch, Monson Gulch, Long Gulch, Chance Gulch, Sagehen Gulch, Wolf Creek Swale, Upper Willow Creek, Sapinero Mesa, Signal Peak
    - USFS - Black Sage Pass
    - CPW - Van Tuyl SWA & Miller Ranch SWA
    - Ute Mountain Ute – Pine Crest Ranch
  - Draft of the 2022 WMRRBP Vision, Objectives and Goals

### **Action Items**

- 2022 Field Work Planning:
  - The coordinator is working with BLM representative, Andrew Breibart, along with other program partners, to complete NEPA, CWA, ESA and SHPO on wet meadow project sites for the 2022 field season.
  - Contractors to perform specialized earthwork, log work, and fencing have been contacted for the 2022 field season, including Stonefly Earthworks, Range Works LLC and Grizzly Fence. The coordinator is working with staff to complete contracting and finalize schedule.

- The RMYCC crew has been secured for two weeks of time to conduct Wet Meadows work at Bohr Flats. Cheryl is finalizing a contract with them.
- Rock and logs are being ordered and scheduled in accordance with the 2022 construction plan and calendar, along with retaining heavy equipment, such as dozers for plug and spreads.
- Outreach:
  - With the UGRWCD assuming responsibility of the Wet Meadows Program, the current website will expire, and information transferred to the District's website. The current webpage for the program on the district's webpage is being built out by staff with narrative, videos, partner information, contact info and a map.
  - The GUSG Summit at Western will take place on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and will be attended by the Coordinator and partners at CPW and FWS.
  - Wet Meadows partners will participate in workshops for private landowners interested in wet meadows work through the Bird Conservancy at the end of February in Gunnison, Glade Park and Hotchkiss.
- Continuity & Vision:
  - The program will no longer be entering into grant agreements for work outside of the basin, but we are, in good faith, going to complete our commitments under our current grant agreements per the General Manager's direction.
  - In collaboration with BIO-Logic, an environmental consultant and long-term partner of the Wet Meadows Program, the coordinator is building out a project site management tool to track site analysis, design, construction, maintenance, monitoring, etc., at each site over time.
  - The coordinator is working with primary Wet Meadows partners to revise and develop a 2022 vision, objectives and goals document that will guide the selection and prioritization of stream reaches for restoration.

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Scientific Endeavors**

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

## **Long Lake Work Group Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Gunnison Basin Roundtable Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Gunnison River Festival Update**



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

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

## **Miscellaneous Matters**

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

## **Infrastructure Bill (Water)**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** January 14, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (Water)

---

Following is a summary of the General Manager's current understanding around the availability of water related infrastructure funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Bill. This summary was provided during a December 16, 2021, Colorado Water Congress Member Call by Keith McCloughlin of the Colorado Water Resource and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA).

**The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Bill provides \$973B for water related infrastructure.**

**Colorado's Water Portion is \$6.15B over 5 years and \$688M for CWRPDA to distribute via the State Revolving Loan Funds.**

- **\$688M to CWRPDA via State Revolving Loan Fund.** They are waiting for guidance from EPA but hope to be able to distribute in first quarter of 2022.
  - **Water Storage Projects:** Are not a part of this \$688M. Reservoirs are not eligible to receive funding from the State Revolving Fund and therefore are not included in this \$688M.
- **State of Colorado Water Infrastructure Allotment: \$6.15B over 5 years**

**Year 1: \$121.3M.**

- \$35M in additional base drinking water funds over what State normally receives which is \$21M.
- Clean Water - \$14M. This is in addition to \$13M the State normally receives.
- Drinking water lead service line replacement - \$56M. Can also include survey work to identify where lead lines need to be replaced.
- Drinking Water Emerging Contaminants - \$15M. Geared toward PFAS.
- Clean Water/Waste Water - \$753,000 geared toward PFAS

**Year 2 (2022-23): Allotment to Colorado estimated to go up by 16%**

**Year 3 (2023-24): Allotment to Colorado estimated to go up by 9%**

**Year 4 (2024-25): Allotment to Colorado estimated to go up by 8%**

**Year 5 (2025-26): Allotment to Colorado estimated to go up by 8%**

- **Reimbursement Method (\$121.3M):** As Grant Dollars.
  - There will be a public process to determine priority of public programs. Will seek stakeholder engagement and want it to be very public/transparent process.
- **Who can apply? Deadlines?** Coming at a later date based upon guidance.
- **Emerging Contaminants** (eg., PFAS) are 100% grant dollars (i.e., no match required). Expensive to mitigate so want to get it done.
- **Build American/Buy American** – tied to all funding. Guidance forthcoming.
- **Project Readiness:** Looking for projects that are somewhat ready to go. Don't need to be "shovel ready" but it would be good for folks to dust off any plans they have and if they want them to go forward, start getting prepared.
- **Davis-Bacon** - will apply to all infrastructure funds.
- **Storage & Conveyance Projects will likely be coming through USBR.** It will likely be a while before the money will be put out. Gives interested parties time to understand where the pots of money are to fund infrastructure needs.
- **Infrastructure Funding Being Distributed via Reclamation:**
  - \$8.3B added to Reclamation's Budget. Huge increase as USBR budget has never reached over \$1B.
  - Reclamation has started to roll out some of these dollars. Had their listening sessions last week.
  - Funding distributed over five years:
    - \$3.2B – Aging Infrastructure. Incorporated into new aging infrastructure account. Based upon what Reclamation Projects need. There will be a funding announcement and application process.
    - \$1.15B – Storage and Conveyance. Targeted at WIN storage program at Reclamation. Includes \$100M for small storage program (equivalent to Title 16). Conveyance has to be associated with increased storage (grd water or surface water).
    - \$1B for Title 16 – SMALL Water Recycling and Reuse.
    - \$450M for LARGE water recycling program (earmarked for major project in Los Angeles).
    - \$250M for desalination
    - \$1B for rural water projects.
    - \$500M for dam safety projects.

- \$300M for drought implementation. \$250M for lower basin. \$50M for Upper Basin.
  - \$400M for WaterSMART. Available for everybody in west. 50/50 cost share. Traditionally been smaller dollar amounts. Asking them to bump up to \$5M which is their statutory cap.
  - \$100M for Cooperative Water Management Program. Helpful on forest management side and interaction with other stakeholder groups working on forest health issues.
  - \$250M for aquatic ecosystem restoration program. 65 % federal cost share.
  - \$100M for multi-benefit watershed projects. Not clear how this is different from aquatic ecosystem above. Not sure if they are going to put into one pot. Waiting for more information.
  - \$50M for Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. Will help for erosion of funds that happened out of the Basin States Fund.
  - \$500M USDA Program (PL566) – allows for investment in infrastructure.
  - USACE Infrastructure Program - \$200M. Not sure what Colorado got.
- Understanding is that Reclamation will release money in 5 equal chunks/portions.
  - No money will pass through Colorado Water Conservation Board.
  - Reclamation currently has \$200M for drought. Reprogrammed another \$100M for drought. These funds are not going to come out very fast.
  - Interested in Reclamation Funding? Have your projects clearly developed so that you can expedite your own projects.

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Gunnison Headwater Wetland Mitigation Bank**

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

## **Homestake Mining Proposal**



# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Office Renovation for Watershed  
Program Coordinator**

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Spencer Business Park Condo Association**

**SPENCER AVENUE BUSINESS PARK CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION  
AGENDA - ANNUAL MEETING  
January 6, 2022**

The Spencer Avenue Business Park Condominium Association conducted its annual meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2022. In attendance were Sonja Chavez, Dan McKenna, Bill Nesbitt, and Jill Steele

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Dan McKenna moved and Bill Nesbitt seconded approval of the February 2, 2021 annual meeting minutes. The motion carried.**

**3. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Wells Fargo December 2021 Bank Statement:

Jill Steele said that the statement was included for informational purposes and shows a balance of \$13,674.13 in the Association's checking account.

2021 Financial Report – Profit & Loss:

Jill Steele provided the information showing a net income in 2021 of \$2,732.99.

**4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Officers re-elected by acclamation: Sonja Chavez President, Bill Nesbitt Secretary/Treasurer.**

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

Repairs made to property in 2020 and 2021:

Foundation Repair  
Building trim stained, two coats  
Parking lot striped

The UGRWCD has paid for the above repairs for a total of \$20,123.10. A bill was prepared for B.A.M.P. LLC's half, or \$10,061.55.

Because there is a healthy 2021 end of year unused balance of \$13,674.13 in the Spencer Avenue Condo Association checking account under which both the Upper Gunnison District and BAMP contribute an equal amount of funding on a monthly basis, it was decided to distribute \$5,000 to each of the two parties. BAMP will then write a check to the District for \$10,061.55 for BAMP's portion of the 2020-2021 building repair and maintenance total.

**Dan McKenna moved and Bill Nesbitt seconded to distribute \$5,000 to each of the two parties. BAMP will then write a check to the District for \$10,061.55 for BAMP's portion of the 2020-2021 building repair and maintenance total. The motion carried.**

These items of old business are still of concern and are discussed under New Business:

Roof/French drain leak causing ice fall hazard  
Soffit rotting under covered porch area  
BLM overnight parking  
BLM use of non-pedestrian grass hill to access BLM alley parking

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

Snow removal contract with Great Escape Landscape (Geoff Berg):

A copy of the contract was included in the packet.

Insurance – American Family Insurance monthly premium increase from \$368.75 to \$444.50 (\$75.75 or 20.54% increase): Dan McKenna said that his research revealed that it is not worthwhile changing insurance companies as the rates are very similar.

Parking Lot – Need to empty overnight for plowing: Dan McKenna will speak with his tenants and ask them not to leave vehicles parked overnight when it is obvious that a snowstorm is coming in and especially on weekends when we are expecting snow.

Repairs to property needed in 2022:

Bullet Construction LLC's Roof Inspection dated 6/11/21: The soffit rotting and the French drain leaks will be fixed in conjunction with the roof repair.

Bill Nesbitt asked Dan McKenna if he was okay moving forward with obtaining bids for the roof repair. Dan said he was.

Sonja Chavez said that UGRWCD has problems with the furnaces in Suite B because the angle of the venting pipe causes water and moisture to not drain properly and eventually results in the furnace not firing/lighting. When the roof is repaired, she plans to raise up those venting pipes in order to correct the problem. Dan McKenna didn't note any issues in Suite A.

Consideration of stairs of some kind in grass hill area for use by tenants of Suite A:

It was decided to not provide additional access over the grass hill since it was not an official ingress/egress and would just result in additional snow removal and maintenance issues, the UGRWCD did want an access point in this location, and tenants of Suite A have an alternative way of accessing their BLM parking lot behind B&B Printers (i.e., Suite A has a back door to the street). It was decided to block off the hill using an orange fence or to rope it off to further discourage use.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

President Sonja Chavez adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Sonja R. Chavez, President

---

William J. Nesbitt, Treasurer



# Reports

## Monthly Energy Production Report

Generated for Beverly Richards  
on 01/13/2022

### UGRWCD

---

Gunnison, CO

This report provides energy production for January.

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
01/01/2022 - 01/07/2022	4.74 kW	53.8 kWh
01/08/2022 - 01/14/2022	5.60 kW	115 kWh
01/15/2022 - 01/21/2022	0 W	0 Wh
01/22/2022 - 01/28/2022	0 W	0 Wh
01/29/2022 - 01/31/2022	0 W	0 Wh
January 2022 Total:		169 kWh
Previous Month Total:		316 kWh
Year to Date:		169 kWh
Lifetime Production:		26.0 MWh

Your **Carbon Offset** for this month: 258.0 lbs

You have offset the equivalent of: **3 Trees**



---

### Browser not supported

---

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

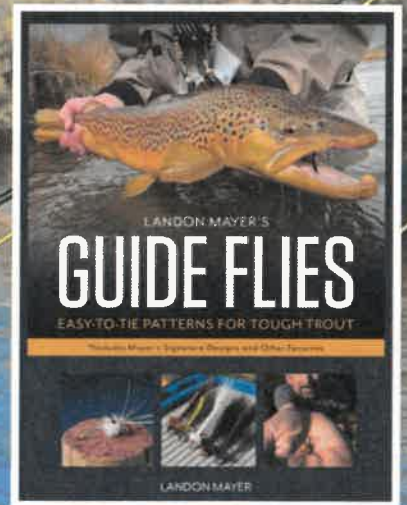
Ok, Got It



# High Country Angler

WINTER  
2022

Inside  
Landon Mayer's  
New  
Book



Clarks Fork  
by Brian LaRue

2022 DENVER FLY FISHING SHOW



**A**s we all know, you can't have a healthy trout population without having a healthy river—and you can't have a healthy river without having a healthy watershed!

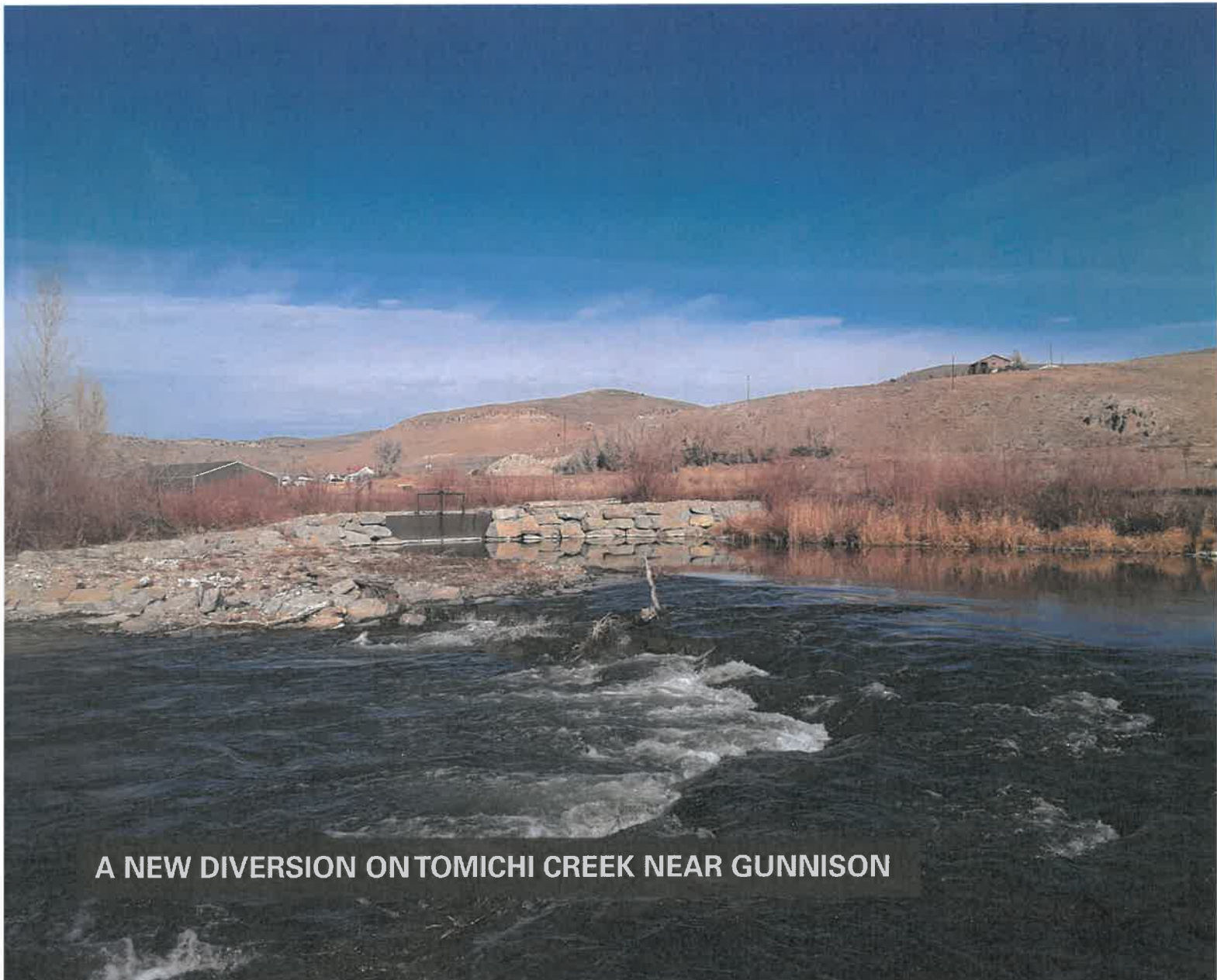
Across the globe, there is increasing pressure from a changing climate. In Colorado, the summer of 2021 brought drought and diminished water supply to meet downstream water needs, catastrophic wildfires with subsequent ash flows and landslides, massive monsoonal flooding, and proliferation of the devastating mountain pine beetle. Leading scientists' models and predictions for the future all call for even more extremes.

So, what can be done? Looking beyond the edge of water, into the floodplain and riparian zone is the obvious first step. Beyond that, investigate the entire

landscape, evaluate the forest and upland watershed to ensure the whole ecosystem is healthy, for generations to come. CTU is proud to be working with several groups across the state that are taking this more holistic approach to conservation and we look forward to telling their stories.

### **The Upper Gunnison Watershed as a Role Model**

The upper Gunnison River watershed is truly remote, spectacularly beautiful, and little-known by many. These uppermost tributaries to the Colorado River are precious ecosystems that provide much of the southwestern U.S. water supply—and happen to hold some of Colorado's best trout fisheries.



**A NEW DIVERSION ON TOMICHI CREEK NEAR GUNNISON**

Leading the charge to conserve, protect and restore the Upper Gunnison are Sonja Chavez (General Manager) and Beverly Richards (Water Resource Specialist) from the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD), along with TU's Jesse Kruthaupt (Gunnison River Project Coordinator). They have been working on local water resource projects with the state Colorado Water Conservation Board, federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and other partners since before the state water plan was issued in 2015.

This watershed will see long term benefits from the ambition and forward-thinking of Sonja and Beverly of the UGRWCD paired with Jesse's multi-generational knowledge of the local ranching community. It was logical for this team to lead with a methodical evaluation of agricultural irrigation infrastructure. Their up- to down- stream evaluation maximizes river health (healthy fish!) and water delivery system efficiencies.

Using a whole-system approach to watershed health, UGRWCD has assembled a wide range of stakeholders that regularly convene to compare notes, share plans and data, and identify potential gaps and overlaps—as well as form sub committees when an identified issue needs additional focus. These groups include representatives from federal land managers and conservation agencies, state agencies, expert technical consultants, interested nonprofit organizations, and many local landowners and businesses from the communities within the district.

The UGRWCD's efforts are resulting in on-the-ground benefits from projects like the 2021 Upper Gunnison River Restoration and Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Project. Sonja Chavez describes the partnerships and leveraging their collaboration has produced:

This project is but one example of the importance of our Upper Gunnison District Grant Program and outcomes from their stream and watershed management planning processes. It also highlights the importance of our partnerships with water right holders and water users, non-governmental entities like Trout Unlimited, and governmental partners like the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado River District, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As part of our mission, the Upper Gunnison District is continually analyzing and pursuing opportunities to

partner with others and leverage your community taxpayer dollars to help protect and improve your Upper Gunnison Basin water resources. Since 2009, the District has invested \$1.6M dollars into water resource improvement projects through our Grant Program and leveraged these dollars 6:1 with \$9.6M of outside funding!

The UGRWCD is making great progress, and they're just getting started. They continue to find and evaluate partners' data and are currently expanding their watershed research by mapping fire hazard zones and assessing the fluvial geomorphology of the watershed in key locations. The careful curation of these studies will identify post-fire hazards that can be used to target pre-fire or post-fire actions or other watershed protection measures, and cross reference where streams are likely to be more (or less) dynamic and how this relates to in-corridor infrastructure and land management.

This cumulative research will inform identification and prioritization of future project locations and recommend implementation/mitigation strategies such as grazing practices, irrigation diversion improvements, dam maintenance, silviculture (forest management), riparian stewardship, bank stabilization, and fish habitat enhancements.

Finding money for projects frequently relies on collaboration across multiple funding sources, which is a demonstration of the multiple "wins" each project produces. When a huge multi-year 6-figure NRCS grant relies on partner funding—from state grant funds such as water planning and river restoration, federal and state agency monies and staff time, private foundation contributions, landowner buy-in, and money from the municipality and/or water conservancy district—it's no small stretch to see how TU members' monetary and volunteer contributions multiply their impact through partnerships extending well beyond the water's edge!

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Nancy Johnston Bramlett** is Colorado TU's Conservation Projects Coordinator, based out of Whitewater.

## COMMENTARY

## COVID has moved on, we have not



970.641.1414

© 2022 Gunnison  
Country Times

**Publisher/Owner:**  
Alan Wartes  
publisher@gunnisontimes.com

**Editor:**  
Sam Liebl  
editor@gunnisontimes.com

**Office Manager/Podcast Editor:**  
Issa Forrest  
issa@gunnisontimes.com

**Staff Writer/Podcast Producer:**  
Anna Coburn  
anna@gunnisontimes.com

**Staff Writer:**  
Bella Blondini  
bella@gunnisontimes.com

**Sports Editor/Photographer:**  
Jacob Spetzler  
jacob@gunnisontimes.com

**Sales Director:**  
Bobbie Duft  
bobbie@gunnisontimes.com

**Production Manager:**  
Michaela Keefe  
production@gunnisontimes.com

**Production:**  
Libby Marsden  
libby@gunnisontimes.com

**Distribution:**  
Elle Forrest

THE GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES (ISSN 0892-1113) is published weekly by Alan Wartes Media LLC, 218 N. Wisconsin St., Gunnison, Colorado 81230. Periodical postage paid at Gunnison, Colorado. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Gunnison Country Times, 218 N. Wisconsin, Gunnison, CO 81230-0240

**Winter Hours:**  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Monday through Friday



Member  
2022



When the retrospective story of the time of COVID is finally written, I predict that hundreds of thousands of those pages will be devoted to a single burning question: How did a virus with such a small fatality rate, and mostly threatening only a limited stratum of the population, ever manage to inspire so much fear and self-destructive over-reaction in everyone else?

They will also certainly ponder how it came to be so risky for someone like me to say such a thing in public; how these few months put the practice of our cherished First Amendment rights so steeply into retrograde. Sadly, they'll have many examples of bannings, firings and other sanctions to study.

I expect those historians and sociologists will be inclined to give us all a pass for the first few weeks of 2020, when so much was unknown and some really big-brained people were turning out scary estimates of just how bad this thing was likely to get. Millions and millions dead, they calculated. Under those circumstances, caution is most definitely the better part of valor.

Back then, the idea was to "flatten the curve" and slow the arrival of what was widely accepted as inevitable: the infection of nearly everyone, and the protective "herd immunity" that this would confer. The reason for going



Alan Wartes  
Times Publisher

slow was a good one, to keep the consequences from arriving all at once and overwhelming our capacity to keep up. Fair enough.

But it didn't take long for actual numbers and real research to start accumulating and for early predictions to be revealed as massive overstatements. Yes, it was tough there for a bit, but not anywhere near as bad as we first feared.

That should have been good news, a cause for celebration. It might have signaled that we could devote ourselves to safeguarding the vulnerable (using verifiable data to define that demographic), but stand down from DEFCON 1 so that we didn't unnecessarily scorch the economic and social earth in every direction.

Clearly, that didn't happen. Somehow, the narrative morphed from managed adaptation to a novel virus to a zero-holds-barred strategy of no spread and total victory — even though many in the medical

community disputed the feasibility and the wisdom of such an approach.

Why? It will be for those future thinkers — when the panic has subsided — to try and nail down definitive answers. For now, we can only do our best to untangle the knot of conflicting studies and contradictory policies and competing narratives to find a way forward.

And we very much need to find a way forward — one that reinstates our ability to talk calmly together and consider multiple possibilities, not just those that are approved by officialdom. The way forward we need so badly will put basic principles of logic and the (real) scientific method of inquiry back into the tool box. It will welcome dissenting voices as necessary to the process of investigation and discovery. It will separate imagined dangers from real ones and take seriously the collateral damage to vital social and economic interests that follows overly restrictive public health policy.

Current events in the Gunnison Valley (and beyond) perfectly illustrate this need. That shift in narrative I spoke of a moment ago — from managing spread to stamping it out entirely — has trapped us now in a conundrum. We're stuck measuring positive test results alone while seemingly unable to evaluate what they really mean,

given changing threat levels. There's no doubt now that the omicron variant is a long way from where we started — more transmissible, sure; but radically less dangerous, according to all available evidence.

Could another, more dangerous variant yet emerge? Sure. Then again, maybe not. Ignoring today's favorable conditions to hedge against a theoretical development tomorrow — at enormous social and economic cost — is a strategy that has outlived its sensibleness, if ever it had any.

Judging solely by the numbers we report in today's *Times* you could conclude that COVID is back in force. But another possibility presents itself, if we allow ourselves a different way of looking. The chief source of disruption right now is not severe illness — it's outdated and overly restrictive CDC quarantine guidelines in the face of a variant proving itself to be on par in severity with the common cold. The virus has moved on, but we have not.

In this sense, much of the present impact of critical staff shortages in our community might just be self-inflicted. I hope those future historians are able to write that we figured that out sooner rather than later.

(Alan Wartes can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or publisher@gunnisontimes.com.)

## GUEST COMMENTARY

## Can the Law of the Colorado River adapt to an increasingly drier hydrology?

The Gunnison River is a major tributary of the Colorado River. The Colorado River Basin has suffered from drought conditions throughout the 21st Century. The two major reservoirs in the Colorado River System, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, are at historic and dangerously low storage levels. Locally, Blue Mesa Reservoir is a stark illustration of the effects of the current dry conditions. Scientists are warning that "drought" is a term that no longer applies because it implies a temporary condition from which the Basin will recover. A more accurate term is "aridification" because the conditions we have experienced during the past 20 years will continue — or worsen — for the foreseeable future, as hotter and drier conditions make matters worse. Recently published projections indicate that river flows may decline 20% by midcentury and 35% by the end of this century. There is debate about the causes of the decline, but little disagreement that it will continue to happen. Can the Law of the Colorado River



John McClow  
Special to the Times

— numerous compacts, federal laws, court decisions and decrees, contracts, and regulatory guidelines, founded on a one hundred-year-old Compact — adapt sufficiently to meet the challenge of aridification?

## A Brief Summary of the Law of the Colorado River

The foundation of the Law of the River is the Colorado River Compact, signed by the seven Colorado River Basin States and the United States in 1922. The Compact is a contract among the signatories ratified by the seven states and Congress and became state and federal law. The Compact divides the Colorado River Basin into an Upper Basin (Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico) and a Lower Basin (Nevada,

Arizona, California). It apportions to the Upper and Lower Basins the beneficial use of 7.5 million acre-feet of Colorado River water per year. It requires that the states of the Upper Basin will not cause the flow of the river to be depleted below an aggregate of 75 million acre-feet for any period of ten consecutive years — measured at Lee Ferry, the dividing point between the basins. It also describes how the basins will share water delivery to Mexico. The Compact contains no reference to "curtailment" or a "Compact call."

In the 1928 Boulder Canyon Project Act, Congress authorized construction of Hoover Dam (Lake Mead) and directed that the 7.5 million acre-feet allotted to the Lower Basin under the 1922 Compact be apportioned: California, 4.4 million acre-feet; Arizona, 2.8 million acre-feet; Nevada, 300 thousand acre-feet.

The United States signed a treaty with Mexico in 1944 that guarantees an annual delivery of 1.5 million acre-feet of Colorado River water

to Mexico. In 1948, the Upper Basin States signed the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, which apportioned the 7.5 million acre-feet allotted under the 1922 Compact: Colorado, 51.75%; Utah, 23%; Wyoming, 14%; New Mexico, 11.25%. The 1948 Compact created the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC), consisting of a commissioner appointed by the governor of each state and a federal Commissioner appointed by the president of the United States. It also provides that if curtailment of use in the Upper Basin is necessary to maintain the flow at Lee Ferry required by the 1922 Compact, the UCRC will determine each state's extent and timing of curtailment. It is important to note that neither the 1922 Compact nor the 1948 Compact affect water right administration within the states. In Colorado, that authority remains vested in the state engineer.

In 1956, Congress passed the Colorado River Storage

continued on A15

continued from A14

Project Act (CRSP). The Act authorized construction of the reservoirs, dams and power plants of the initial units of the Project: Wayne N. Aspinall (originally the Curecanti Unit), Flaming Gorge, Navajo (reservoir and dam only), and Glen Canyon (Lake Powell), along with numerous participating

projects, "making it possible for the States of the Upper Basin to utilize, consistently with the provisions of the Colorado River Compact, the apportionments made to and among them in the Colorado River Compact and the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, respectively." The CRSP power plants are an important source of hydro-power in the Western United

States, and the revenue from the sale of that hydropower supports operation of the Project and important salinity control and endangered fish recovery programs.

The Colorado River Basin Project Act, passed by Congress in 1968, authorized construction of the Central Arizona Project (CAP), which can divert 1.5 million acre-feet from the

Colorado River to central and southern Arizona. Construction of the CAP allowed Arizona to develop its full apportionment of Colorado River water. The act confirms California's senior priority to 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado River water, meaning that Arizona and Nevada must bear any shortage in the Lower Basin.

Next week will be part two:

adapting the law of the river for a dry hydrology.

(John McClow is the general counsel for the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.)

## LETTERS

### Vandenbusche, the Gunnison Valley icon

Editor:

I join the growing sentiment in support of Dr. Duane Vandenbusche during his recent ordeal. He has been a coach, mentor and trusted friend to me since 1972 while attending (then) Western State College.

He is well known throughout the Gunnison and Crested Butte communities, the Western Slope and Colorado for his overall knowledge and expertise of history and coaching. I only hope now multiple people at the university will step up and do all the positive things Duane has done over the 60 years he has been here. He has done so much more than expected for past and present students and community members over the years that will be hard to replace.

Don't let one event tarnish the many years he has supported all here in the valley as well as throughout the state. How many professional sports people have had issues over the years and yet still get to play, sign bigger contracts and remain lions in their sport and community? Forgive and forget, folks! Time to move on and have someone on the staff at Western be as productive or more as Duane has been. Enjoy retirement, Duane, for you deserve it.

Frank Mencin  
Montrose

### Questioning challenge to GOP

Editor:

Hello there, David Haedt. It may be safe to say that many folks who harbor lifelong in their comfort zones don't value someone else's opinion, perhaps this displays an internal flaw within the benevolent side of their inhumanity, but I do value what others have to say if they say it rightfully.

That being said, I have a few questions to pose concerning your recent letter titled: "Challenge to local GOP."

Concerning the University of Massachusetts at Amherst poll you stated in the letter, did the school's political writer, Tatishe Nteta, write it? The vast majority of poll sites I checked pretty much agreed with one another that around 71% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents still believe the 2020 election was 'stolen' from Mr. Trump, leaving 29% who believe the election was legitimate.

So where did your 6% number come from? I mean, even NPR's very blue political writer Domenico Montanaro disagrees

with your figures.

You also referred to a Colorado State Representative named "Tom Hanks," cool. Did you mean the talented actor? Because there is a Colorado Rep from District 60 with the name of Ron Hanks, who ran and lost in California a bit ago, but, unfortunately, no Tom Hanks that I'm aware of in our legislature.

In regards to Mr. Trump and his ego-fueled fixation on his alleged 'stolen' election, I'm looking forward to that opinion letter from you concerning Hillary Clinton and Stacey Abrams' stolen election claims, and your insight on how come the Democratic National Committee got away with paying for a proven bogus hit-piece 'dossier' on a sitting president they despised. Oh, and I almost forgot, why any GOP politician would actually be naive enough to discuss voting law changes (Shh ... don't tell anybody, Ms. Alcindor, so we can win), to a deeply partisan "journalist," such as PBS' Yamiche Alcindor.

Mr. Haedt, the local GOP has nothing to be ashamed of around here, besides holding no offices of power, but the Democrats in Washington, D.C. surely do.

Jon Matuszczak  
Gunnison

### Handling of Vandenbusche case demonstrates dereliction of duty

Editor:

Recent reporting by the *Times* highlighted the case against Dr. Duane Vandenbusche, a distinguished Western Colorado University history professor of 60 years who has maintained a large community and statewide profile. The March 2020 incident, which allegedly included sexist and derogatory comments towards a female Western employee, reportedly also involved Vandenbusche slapping the woman twice and forcing her to hug him.

As reported by the *Times*, the woman involved in the incident alleges that Vandenbusche has a history of making misogynist remarks towards her that spanned several years. Vandenbusche pled guilty to the harassment charge on Dec. 15, receiving a plea deal which will keep him out of prison and which dropped the more severe assault charge (which carries a maximum of 18 months jail time.)

His punishment includes a year-long probationary period, the coverage of court costs (less than \$250), fewer than 50 hours of required community service

and the completion of a sexual harassment course. Should he complete these terms adequately, the harassment charge will be dismissed and the court case sealed.

Legal matters aside, Vandenbusche's resignation was finally called for by Interim President Nancy Chisholm after the court appearance and guilty plea and officially announced in an all-campus email from President Chisholm on Dec. 17. The grievance report filed by the injured party was received by Western's Human Resources Department in mid-January 2021, and a police report was later filed in mid-February.

Yet, Vandenbusche remained in the classroom during the spring of 2021 and through the recently completed fall semester (teaching a half load), even after charges were filed in May 2021 and the 83-year-old Vandenbusche appeared in court in August 2021. As mentioned in the article, Vandenbusche also acted as a critical component of the "Elevate Western" fundraising campaign and played a large role in the October Homecoming festivities.

The whole Vandenbusche saga raises several questions, beginning with why Vandenbusche was not suspended during the legal proceedings. Was it his reputation and status within WCU and amongst the greater Gunnison Valley that sheltered him from more immediate consequences? What message is the university sending to Western donors that a key person in the fundraising campaign was actively under legal investigation for harassment and assault, and yet was allowed to continue teaching on campus and serve as the face of a multimillion-dollar donor campaign?

Let's set aside the financial concerns to focus on the most important matter: safety. With the decision not to suspend Vandenbusche during the legal and investigation process, it is clear that the reputation of a long-tenured professor with deep-seated community ties and connections was prioritized over the immediate safety and well-being of students and other faculty and staff at Western. What are parents of young students, particularly women, to think of the Vandenbusche case should they stumble across it online?

In keeping Vandenbusche in the classroom, former President Salisbury and Interim President Chisholm, amongst other top Western administrators, failed in their duty to protect WCU's community, and the university's broader reputation, against someone credibly accused of

assault, sexual harassment and repeated instances of gender-based discrimination, including incidents in front of multiple witnesses.

Students, parents and other interested parties should not be initially hearing of such a serious incident from their local newspaper nearly a full calendar year after it was first reported, and more than 20 months after it initially occurred.

Western must do better moving forward to rapidly respond to allegations on this scale with swift and meaningful actions. This should include issuing suspensions amidst thorough internal investigations, and relaying clear communications outlining both process and consequences to students, faculty, staff and the broader Western community.

Brian Wagenaar  
Student  
WCU

### Happy and Healthy New Year

Editor:

Shalom B'nai Butte and Friends! Happy and Healthy New Year! We begin 2022 optimistic for the future despite the COVID pandemic challenges.

Jewish tradition proffers the teaching of four different New Years. Rosh Hashana — the new year birthday of the world (September), Tu B'Shevat — the birthday for trees, a Jewish everyday (January), first day of Elul — new year for cattle and animals (August), first day of Nisan — New Year for the Jewish people redeemed from Egyptian slavery, and a recognition of Kings and taxes (March/April). We also observe the new year calendar cycles in the lands and times we live. Thus, we wish each other a good, happy, and healthy new year 2022.

The new year dates above come from the Mishna written some 2,000 years ago and are occasions to mark time meaningfully and opportunities to shift our ways to better our lives. A teacher once shared with me that changing one's direction by a single degree will lead one along a different pathway. Perhaps, intentions for the coming year are preferred instead of resolutions.

As we deal responsibly with the uptick in COVID cases we will not be meeting in person next weekend, Jan. 14-16 as planned. Instead, with the intention for our community to connect we will meet virtually for a Shabbat experience, Torah learning and online socializing. Stay tuned for details and links. Our intention is to meet in person next month.

I am hopeful that we consider our best intentions for the coming year and follow through on those aspirations. Here are intentions to consider: self-care and compassion, kindness and openness to others, and learning and engaging your Jewish sensibilities.

With this in mind I note the coincidence that my first Shabbat together with B'nai Butte last month was Hanukkah and this Shabbat's Torah portion is Bo. Both consider darkness and light. On Hanukkah, we light the Menorah, ever expanding light amidst darkness. The portion of Bo describes the last three plagues, including the ninth plague, darkness. This next-to-final plague described in Exodus 10:23 has the Israelites enjoy light, while the Egyptians suffer thick, stifling darkness. In all likelihood, this deep darkness left the ancient Israelites grappling with their faith and what the future would bring. This overwhelming darkness had the feeling of desperation and fear. The imagery of both pervasive darkness and pockets of hopeful light plaguing our ancestors resonate with us today. Sometimes, our current times feel heavy with darkness and despondency. However, there are always pockets of light, hope and shalom. I pray that we embrace this intention for 2022. Know that darkness plagues our world. Yet, at the same time, there are profound and powerful lights of redemption moving us in a positive trajectory.

Please be in contact if I can be of support or if you simply wish to talk. I look forward to celebrating Shabbat virtually with you next week and my visit Feb. 11-13, 2022.

Much Blessing and Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Mark Kula  
B'nai Butte

## 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.

**PEOPLE & HAPPENINGS**

**Western Movie Tryouts**

Come try out for a locally-shot western film written by Sam Schaefer and John Mark Sibley. Auditions will occur Jan. 18-20 at 5:30 p.m. and will be on the university campus in Taylor Hall, room 130. If you have any questions, reach out to John and Sam at johnymarky@gmail.com or samantha.schaefer@western.edu. We will be eager to hear from you.

**Living Journeys**

Living Journeys hosts free, confidential support group meetings that are open to all Gunnison County residents. Experienced professional therapists facilitate meetings in-person and via Zoom, no RSVP required.

Our Conscious Caregivers Support Group and the Navigating Grief and Loss Support Group are open to all situations — the care or loss does not need to be cancer-related. Find out more at livingjourneys.org.

Upcoming Support Group Meetings:

Monday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m.: Cultivating Hope Cancer Support Group

Monday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m.: Conscious Caregivers Support Group

**CB Museum Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Event**

Join the Crested Butte Museum on a historic nordic ski and snowshoe out to the magic meadows yurt on Jan. 30 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Learn about the history of the area, including the Big Mine, Peanut Lake Mine, Pittsburg and Augusta Mines during the trip out to the yurt and enjoy a light lunch and a refreshment of your choice. This trip meets at the Crested Butte Nordic Center. The cost is \$50 Members (Museum and/or Nordic Center) and \$65 for non-members. There is a \$15 optional ski or snowshoe rental.

**League of Women voters of the Gunnison Valley**

Many programs of interest are on tap locally, state and nationally. Think about your interests and how you'd like to participate. Topics range from Colorado health care, voting rights, voting methods and voter security, housing, food security and much more.

Follow the calendar on our

website and announcements on LWVGV Facebook Page.

**Mental Health Topics**  
Executive director for the GVH Foundation, Jenny Birnie will lead a panel discussion on mental health topics, including partnerships with law enforcement. Mariah Davidson and Kimberly Behounek are expected to be part of the panel. Join the Zoom meeting on Jan. 11 at 11:30 a.m.

**Defending Democracy Webinar on Voting Rights**

On Jan. 11 from 5-6 p.m., LWVGV is co-sponsoring this event with LWV Piedmont, California. The speaker will be Carol Moon Goldberg, president of LWV California.

Visit hvvgunnison.org to register and attend.

**The Gunnison River Festival**

The 2022 Gunnison River Festival Board of Directors are just beginning to plan for the three-day 20th Anniversary of the Gunnison River Festival. The title sponsor of the festival continues to be the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.

A full schedule of programming will be released in the Spring of 2022, but rafting, kayaking, a foot race and educational clinics throughout our watershed are anticipated. Watch the festival's website at gunnisonriverfestival.com for updates.

**Gunnison Gallery "Ice Art Show"**

Local artists entered photos embracing the beauty of the ice of our winter season and the \$5 entry fee was donated to the Gunnison Country Food Pantry. The photographs show amazing ice circles, heart shaped ice, fern window frost, frozen ice close ups and frozen lakes with skaters. Stop by 124 N. Main Street to see the show on display until Jan. 29.

Call 970.641.6111 for more information.

**"The Quickborn Odyssey"**

Local Crested Butte author Phil Coleman's debut novel releases on Jan. 13. "The Quickborn Odyssey" is a juvenile (ages 9-15) fantasy adventure that takes place in a bizarre, comical and outlandish setting at the end of the world. An author event and reading will be held at the Old Rock Library in Crested Butte as part of Messy Mondays at 3:45 p.m. on Jan. 31.



**Celebrating MENTORS EVERYWHERE**  
How will you make an impact? #MentoringAmplifies

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 MENTORS!**

Callie Acre  
Loren Ahonen  
A.J. Alt  
Asher Arell  
Alyssa Atzenbeck  
Charles Auran  
Sidney Bare  
Eric Barker  
Brianna Baros  
Chloe Bessière  
Matthew Benoit  
Cedric Bermudez  
Jacob Bernholtz  
Grace Birnie  
Kara Boothe  
Liz Boyatt  
Rebecca Briesmoore  
Christiaan Burke  
Dominic Cerio  
Nathan Chubbuck  
Kiera Classen  
Rachel Cockman  
Colin Courtney  
Capi Cusimano  
Luke Danielson  
Andrew Diehl  
Molly Dillon  
Celestina Doñez  
William Edwards  
Tim Egelhoff  
Hannah Eifenbein  
Grace Elliott  
Casey Elnick  
Michael Enright  
Hannah Erickson  
Noelia Espinoza

Ricardo Esqueda  
Joseph Evan  
Lana Fagan  
Zach Flanders  
Hayes Freeman  
Dan Gagen  
Grecia Garcia  
Skyler Gardner  
Jefferey Gearhart  
Daniel Gomez  
Anna Goodin  
Lindsay Grasmick  
Bryan Gray  
Shonna Gray  
Faulkner Griffin  
Cynthia Gunderson  
Betty Gurk  
Brian Hadley  
Nola Hadley  
David Haedt  
Mary Hakala  
Lily Hannah  
Ruby Hartigan  
Grace Haverkamp  
Mia Haverkamp  
Zoe Hegeman  
Heissel Herrera  
Kylie Hester  
Bethany Holton  
Bailey Hosier  
Charlote Hough  
Henrick Hudson  
Hannah Hyde  
Heidi Immel  
George Kamberelis  
Carol Kastning  
Ethan Kauffmann  
Ginny Kaufke  
Lance Lakoski

Sami Lakoski  
Caleb Linville  
Eveyn Loperfido  
Billy Loring  
Mark McCoy  
Kelsey McDonald  
Tina McGuinness  
Megan Jelinek  
Patrick Mcwain  
Elizabeth Mense  
Rita Merrigan  
Mackenzie Mills  
Carmen Moreira  
John Morris  
Nathan Morris  
Katie Neben  
Aiden Niemi  
Jessica Noll  
India Norme  
Timothy Pearson  
Liam Pershyn  
Rhiannon Phegley  
Domenic Policaro  
Stephanie Porter  
Joseph Ramos  
Nicole Real  
Maura Reed  
Kilian Riles  
Michael Robillard  
Chuck Robinson  
Jermaine Rodney  
Aubree Scarff  
Stuart Schneider  
Luke Schumacher  
Maggie Scofield  
Dori Scott  
Valeda Scribner  
Elizabeth Shaw  
Sasha Sheperdson - Legere

Elizabeth Dawn Sietz  
Petar Sinic  
David Sneesby  
Juliet Stillman  
Tom Stumpf  
Brian Sutphin  
Nocona Swindell  
Evan Tetamore  
Antonio Valdez  
John Van Bergen  
Alexandra Van Zandt  
Oliver VanTiel  
Erica Vernon  
Nancy Vogel  
Mitchell Volz  
Ivy Walker  
Erik Wassinger  
Hannah Weil  
Ethan White  
Josh Whitton  
Veronica Wilde  
James Woodbery  
Peyton Wyckoff  
Charles Young  
Jill Young  
Chloe Zimmer

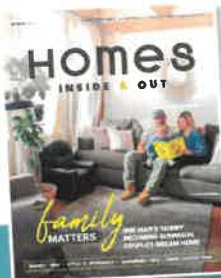
**GVM BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021**  
David Haedt, President  
Eric Kowal, Vice President  
Marcia Landehr, Secretary  
Matt Benoit, Treasurer  
Mike Robillard  
Charlie Welch  
James Erwin  
William Edwards  
Kerry Lefebvre  
Carol Kastning



101 N. 8TH, GUNNISON  
970.641.5513



**A CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS**



**ARE YOU A PHOTOGRAPHER, REALTOR, BUILDER...ETC?**

WE'D LOVE TO SHOWCASE YOUR WORK IN OUR 2022 HOMES INSIDE AND OUT MAGAZINE.

Contact Sales Director Bobbie, bobbie@gunnisontimes.com, DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FEB. 11, 2022

ALANWARTESMEDIA

**SO MUCH MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER.**



Engage at gunnisontimes.com

# Church DIRECTORY

**BETHANY CHURCH**  
 909 N Wisconsin St. (behind Powerstop) • 641-2144  
 Holiday Schedule through January 9, 2022  
 One 9 a.m. service only  
 Check our website for more information at: [munisombethany.com/](http://munisombethany.com/)

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GUNNISON**  
 107 N. Iowa • 641-0925  
 Pastor Larry Nelson  
 Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.  
 Nursery & Age-Graded Ministry  
 Weekly Student Ministry  
 Weekly Adult Life Groups  
 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9:00-1:00  
 For more info: [ccgunnison.com](http://ccgunnison.com)  
 or email [info@ccgunnison.com](mailto:info@ccgunnison.com)  
 Join us in-person, listen to our broadcast on 98.3 FM, or view online stream on YouTube  
 Transforming Lives • Building Community

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Virginia at N. Pine St. • 641-2240  
 Pastor Jonathan Jones  
 9:30 A.M. Share & Prayer Fellowship / 10 A.M. Sunday School Classes  
 11 A.M. Morning Worship Service / 6 P.M. Evening Service  
 Wednesday 7 PM - Children's Patch Club / Gunnison Bible Institute  
 Thursday 7 PM - College & Career Christian Fellowship  
[www.firstbaptistgunnison.org](http://www.firstbaptistgunnison.org)

**THE GOOD SAMARITAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
 307 W. Virginia Ave. • 641-0429  
 Rev. Laura Osborne, Vicar  
 Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist, Rite II 9 a.m.  
 Children's Sunday school 9 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.  
 Office Hours: M-Th 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
[www.goodsamaritangunnison.com](http://www.goodsamaritangunnison.com)  
 Visit our partnership church:  
**All Saints in the Mountains, Crested Butte**  
 Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Saturday 5 p.m.  
 Union Congregational Church, 107 Manson Ave., Crested Butte.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 600 E. Virginia • 641-1588  
 Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening Worship: 6 p.m.  
 Wednesday Night Bible Class: 7 p.m.

**GUNNISON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 United Church of Christ  
 Open and Affirming Whole Earth Just Peace  
 Sunday, 10:00 a.m. (9:00 a.m., Summer)  
 Casual, Relaxed, "Come As You Are" Worship  
[www.gunnisonuc.org](http://www.gunnisonuc.org)  
 M-W-F 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 317 N. Main St. • 970-611-3203

**MT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 711 N. Main • 641-1860  
 Bible Study and Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays  
 Church Service at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES**  
 1040 Highway 135 (1/4 mile N. of Spencer Ave.)  
 Sunday Morning Worship 9:30am  
 Nursery and Children's ministry through Middle School  
 "Kneecy" Worship Nights  
 Small Group Ministries  
[www.rmcmchurch.org](http://www.rmcmchurch.org) - 641-0158

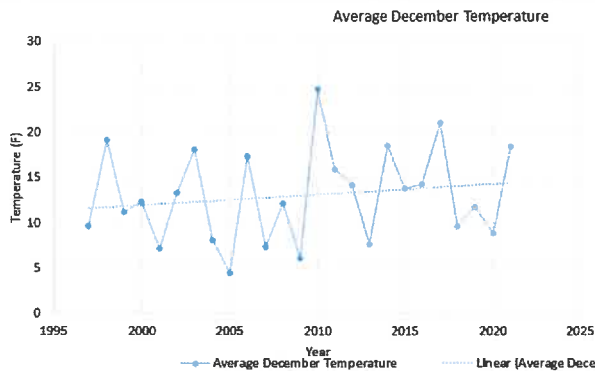
**ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 300 N. Wisconsin • 641-0808 • Fr. Andres Ayala  
[www.gunnisoncatholic.org](http://www.gunnisoncatholic.org) | [www.seeadventcatholic.org](http://www.seeadventcatholic.org) or call the Parish Office.  
 St. Peter's - Gunnison Sat 5:00 pm & Sun 10:30 am, 12:00 pm, Spanish Mass  
 Queen of All Saints - Crested Butte, 101 Sopis Sun 8:30am Mass  
 St. Rose of Lima - Lake City Communion Service, Sun 10:00am

**GRACE COVENANT CHURCH GUNNISON**  
 101 N. 8th St. Gunnison •  
 The historic Eighth Street School Pastor Ralph Hull  
 Reformed, Confessional & committed to Expository preaching  
 Sundays 10:00 a.m.  
 Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study  
 Fridays 6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
[www.gunjourngunnison.com](http://www.gunjourngunnison.com)

**TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 523 N. Pine St. • 641-1813  
 Senior Pastor - Michael McVey  
 Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.  
 Adult Bible Study 8:00 AM  
[www.trinitybaptistgunnison.com](http://www.trinitybaptistgunnison.com)

**GUEST COMMENTARY**

# December 2021 — a month to remember



**Bruce "Barometer" Bartleson**  
*Special to the Times*

Yes, December, 2021 was indeed a month to remember for many reasons, but especially in the upper end of the valley — more on that later.

Here in Gunnison, you won't be surprised to learn that the warm spell continued. The daily highs (34°), daily lows (2.7°), and the average temperature (18.3°) were all five degrees above long term numbers. Our snowfall came in at 7.9°, a bit below the average, but the water content of 1.2° was above average.

In mid-December we had a string of days that were 12-14° below zero, and that is about 5-10° colder than the long term average for that time of year.

Interestingly enough, late December into early January is normally the coldest time of the year. On Jan. 2 and 3, 2022 we had temperatures of -17°

and -19°, which is the coldest so far this winter season, and although colder than the average for that date, nowhere near a record.

Actually, looking at long term numbers, Jan. 2, 8, and 10 are tied for the typical coldest day of the year with an average low of -10°. By the way, you might be interested to know that January is our snowiest month (and also in Crested Butte), with an average of 11.63°. December shows about 10°.

Now, how about the upper end of the valley? As you probably have heard, Crested Butte had some phenomenal snow falls in late December. I think at one point the ski area reported fresh snowfalls of 41" in a 48-hour period, and it kept on snowing.

The town of Crested Butte is showing an official tally of 99.5" of snowfall for the month of December, and the biggest single day was 17.9". The good news (not necessarily for skiing) is that this was exceptionally heavy snow, and they are reporting 9" of snow water equivalent (SWE) for the month, which puts them far above average in SWE. Overall, the Gunnison Basin is showing 151% of normal SWE.

billy barr in Gothic is reporting 87.5" of snow in the last

storm cycle with 14" of SWE. He also reports 119" of snow in Gothic for the month of December, also with a high SWE. Lest you think this is a record, may I remind you of December 1983, with the legendary "40 days and 40 nights" (not really) of snow starting in November. That year, Gothic received 183" of snow in the month of December alone, and the town of Crested Butte posted 126". We had 37.8" of snow in Gunnison that month — more than many entire winters. Those are real records!

So what caused this enormous snowfall in Crested Butte, which was much greater than anywhere else nearby? According to the NWS, we had a very sustained, long term south-west flow of very wet air (atmospheric river) aimed right at the Crested Butte area.

Here's an interesting gradient for you — the city of Gunnison shows 7.9" of snow in December, the town of Crested Butte almost 100", and Gothic has 119" in December this year. Wow!

*(Bruce Bartleson is a retired Western Colorado University geology professor who now spends his time tracking the Gunnison Valley's weather.)*



Julia Adams

## Frozen wonderland

Wind-whipped water created beautiful ice formations at Blue Mesa Reservoir over the weekend. Heather Bradford, pictured, and Julia Adams explored the lake on skates.

## ICELab Fellowship

from A1

enough companies and we bring enough industry here, that we can create enough high-paying jobs so that students when they graduate from Western don't have to have that dilemma," Whiteford said.

"They can have the best of both worlds," he added. "They can pursue their career here in the Gunnison Valley, primarily, in the outdoor industry, while also living the lifestyle that they've come to love here."

Although the fellowship is unpaid, Whiteford said the program will hopefully lead stu-

dents into jobs and paid internships within the valley. For the duration of the program, students will be required to attend one incubator session per week, one networking session with local community leaders every two weeks and one city council meeting per month.

Outside of those requirements, there will also be opportunities for students to work on real world projects — product and graphic design, marketing, sales, data management and accounting — with each of the companies the ICELab works with.

"For example, I know Beacon Guidebooks is looking for an intern to help with processing and shipping, as well as social media coordination," Whiteford

said. "A student who's either versed in communications or business administration, with an emphasis in marketing would be a great candidate for that position."

John Norton, the executive director of the Tourism and Prosperity Project (TAPP) which oversees the ICELab, said the organization is "working with Western more closely than we ever have before."

Norton said TAPP is excited about the program. Whether or not they end up working for any of the ICELab's launching companies, "students are going to get real-world experience," Norton said, "an opportunity that is super important to future employers."

Because this will be the first

year the fellowship is offered, "we have a lot to learn ourselves just about how this program is going to work," Whiteford said. "We're going to learn a lot from the students, like what do students expect out of this program? And what's gonna work best for them as far as their schedules go, but also, as far as their career objectives go?"

The fellowship is also another way that Western can "up the game" and become even more established in this area as a leader in the outdoor industry, said Scott Borden, the director of Western's Outdoor Industry MBA program. The majority of the companies that work with the ICELab are outdoor focused such as Campfire Ranch, SheFly, Romp Skis and Hustle

Bike Labs.

"We have over 80% public lands," Borden said. "This is the perfect place to be to learn about and grow the outdoor industry."

Gary Pierson, dean of students, said Western has been trying to get more students into the ICELab, a place where they can experience "incredible learning opportunities that can't be replicated at other universities."

"These kinds of things set Western apart," Pierson said.

(Bella Biondini can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or bella@gunnisonstimes.com.)

# Cheryl Cwelich to join Upper Gunnison staff



Bella Biondini

Cheryl Cwelich will start her new job in January.



Tracie Fife

Volunteers work on a wet meadows project in 2019.

## Cwelich will serve as watershed program coordinator

Bella Biondini  
Times Staff Writer

In January, the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District will welcome Cheryl Cwelich as its new watershed program coordinator.

In her new role, Cwelich will become a full-time leader of the district's wet meadows restoration-resilience project and work with other stakeholders throughout the valley to restore the basin's seasonal wetlands. She will also support river and habitat restoration projects, project management, grant development as well as outreach and education.

Since the Upper Gunnison took over the wet meadows project in 2017 from the Nature Conservancy, the district has

been operating it as a type of consultancy. For the past two years, Paul Jones worked on the restoration project as a private contractor.

But as time has passed, the program has "really grown," said Sonja Chavez, Upper Gunnison General Manager. "It was just at size where we felt it needed more attention and a higher level of management."

"It's a program that's known nationwide and really recognized," Chavez said. "And so we really wanted to bring it in, embrace it and continue to grow it."

To fill that role and expand the position, Chavez said the district wanted a candidate who knew the valley and understood its issues, as well as "someone who was dedicated to the community who wanted to live here and really appreciated our environment and our community. And that was Cheryl."

The position will also "allow wet meadows to better coordinate with other activities going on within the districts like our watershed management planning and forest health initiatives," Chavez said. "And

Cheryl's got a really strong background in water policy, in addition to restoration and environmental and outdoor recreation and management. She just really had a good, very broad set of skills that fit with our needs."

Cwelich grew up in what was unincorporated Jefferson County, now home to the bustling city of Centennial. After her "first career" in accounting with a lightning protection company in Boulder, Cwelich, influenced by her deep love of nature and the outdoors, said she "made an adjustment, because I want to feel like I'm making a difference."

Cwelich made the switch and worked as a seasonal park ranger for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) on the Arkansas River in Salida, where she said she was filled with questions about water. As she floated down the river in rafts and kayaks, she wanted to learn more.

"I wanted to get involved, and I was in love with the river, too, because I was becoming a boater," she said.

Although Cwelich had been visiting Gunnison since she was born, she moved to

the valley in 2018 to attend Western Colorado University, from which she graduated with a degree in environment and sustainability with an emphasis in water policy and resilience. Fueled by her interest in water management, she first encountered the Upper Gunnison in school and soon began working with them as an intern.

"I loved working with Upper Gunnison at that time and just got such a great exposure to the different projects and programs in the valley," Cwelich said.

After graduation, Cwelich began working with the Crested Butte Land Trust as a river steward, where she taught community members about safe boating etiquette and how to protect wildlife habitat.

When reflecting on what drew her to apply for her new job with the Upper Gunnison, Cwelich said even though the internship came to a close, she was still working on projects the district was involved in.

"For me, as much as I love conservation, and I love what the Land Trust does, my passion and desire has been in water resource management,"

she said. "I think it's so important, especially as we're starting to address questions about drought."

Through her work to "re-wet the sponge" and restore the basin's riparian ecosystems with the wet meadows project, Cwelich will be collaborating with multiple stakeholders in the valley, including CPW, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

CPW Wildlife Conservation Biologist Nathan Seward recognized Upper Gunnison's need for a watershed coordinator to help facilitate more riparian and habitat restoration work.

"I'm looking forward to really expanding the work in the Upper Gunnison Basin," Seward said. "It's exciting times. It's great to have her in that full-time capacity."

(Bella Biondini can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or bella@gunnisonstimes.com.)



**230 BEVINGTON ROAD | GUNNISON**  
 MLS# 785859 | \$1,100,000 | 3BD/4BA | 2,323 SF

Lock-log Single Family Home. The 1/2 acre parcel is located on the Gunnison River. No HOA fees or dues, the large yards are well-manicured and designed with curb appeal in the front with a circular driveway and a back yard designed for comfort and relaxation next to the river. Excellent fishing, right out your back door. Great home for entertaining family and friends.



Larry Neilson  
 970.209.7849  
 lneilson@livsothebysrealty.com

LIV | Sotheby's  
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## The Valley Housing Fund

is a local nonprofit corporation, working to provide essential workforce housing in the Gunnison Valley. The fund seeks a visionary leader who will be the primary spokesperson and chief executive, exercising discretion and independent judgement on matters related to fundraising, capacity building and collaborative efforts with organizations and community leaders to create critically needed housing. This is a full time position. Applicants are directed to the VHF website, ([valleyhousingfund.org](http://valleyhousingfund.org)) for the full job description, and may send resumes to [info.valleyhf@gmail.com](mailto:info.valleyhf@gmail.com).



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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>HOME</b>   | <b>AUTO</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary Residence</li> <li>• Secondary</li> <li>• Renters</li> <li>• Builders Risk</li> <li>• Flood</li> <li>• Hard to Insure Properties</li> <li>-short term rentals, cabins</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal/Commercial</li> <li>• RV</li> <li>• Motorcycle/ATV</li> </ul>          |
|   | <b>COMMERCIAL</b>  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Owners</li> <li>• Workers Comp</li> <li>• General Liability</li> </ul> |



Scott Shondeck

Give us a call for a quote today!  
 Local Service Since 1994

**970-641-4700 / 970-349-1041**

Gunnison: 114 N. Boulevard St. Suites 102 & 105  
 Crested Butte: 214 6th St. Suite 9, in the Ore Bucket  
 Commercial Center

# 'From Microbes to Livestock'

## Workshop aimed at armoring soils against drought

Bella Biondini  
 Times Staff Writer

In November, Coldharbour Institute held "From Microbes to Livestock," a workshop to promote the purpose and importance of healthy soils in the Gunnison Valley. The event was supported by Western Colorado University and the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District's mini-grant program, established to promote educational and outreach projects.

The idea for the event took root when Lily Richards, a student in Western's Master of Environmental Management (MEM) program and land manager fellow at Coldharbour, was talking with one of her cohort members this summer about their research on the effects of compost on soil health. During the pair's discussion, they realized that soil health isn't a "hot topic" around the Gunnison Valley, Richards said.

"I think the Gunnison Valley is all about conservation easements, which is really great," Richards said. "But I think when it comes down to topics such as soil science, and how it can help with the health of the environment and the health of the land, it's not a talked-about subject as

much as it should be."

The result was the desire to spread the word through a hands-on event about soil with its direct relationship to land prosperity as its center. In addition to the students' demonstrations, Western Slope landowners were also invited to share their views and practices.

From compost to climate change mitigation, the event covered a wide variety of topics. Ranchers, students and community members were welcomed to join the free workshop at Western's University Center. About 21 participants attended the workshop, most in person, with some joining online.

MEM alum Alexia Cooper kicked off the workshop by starting from the beginning, teaching the group about the science behind living soil, including its functions, layers and systems. Her presentation also included what healthy soil contributes to agricultural production and water use in the valley.

Afterward, Shaun McGrath, another MEM candidate, led attendees through three hands-on exercises to measure the characteristics of soil samples, including the amount of organic matter, drainage and its water holding capacity.

Although there are many different types, dark carbon-rich soil that is less dense is "one of the first things I think about when I think of healthy soil," McGrath said.

McGrath's research, which is in its third year, focuses on

how compost interacts with soil and could help ranchers adapt to drought by increasing its ability to hold water. By adding new organic matter to the soil, "we're boosting plant productivity, which takes more carbon from the atmosphere."

This was not the first time Coldharbour held a soil workshop. MJ Pickett, executive director at the Coldharbour Institute, said the organization is "hopeful to do it year after year."

The exercises McGrath led can be replicated "with a bottle of water out on your land or any land," said Pickett, "to take a peek at what your soil is doing" with minimal materials and supplies.

Soil health is just as important as snowpack and river flows when "facing a changing climate," Pickett added. "We talk a lot about drought. But one of the main solutions, I think, is looking at our soils."

"As land owners or managers, we can do so much with our soil to increase water holding capacity, to sequester carbon, to do all these things," she said.

"I think we'll just continue to see these changes — drier, warmer weather — so armoring our soil, so that it can withstand some of these droughts and absorb the moisture that we do get, rather than just let it run off. I think is our biggest defense against drought up here."

(Bella Biondini can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or bella@gunnisontimes.com.)

## GS&L CAN HELP MAKE BUILDING YOUR DREAM HOME A REALITY

One-time Close

Janice English  
 Senior Vice President  
 970.642.4642 | NMLS# 491776

Kim Fahey | Loan Officer  
 970.642.4644 | NMLS# 1221750

Rob Bramwell | Loan Officer  
 970.642.4645 | NMLS# 951456

WWW.GUNNISONSL.COM

NMLS # 483354



# Wintry winds of change



Courtesy of Day's Edge Productions

Is this one of local legend billy barr's last winters in Gothic?

Anna Coburn  
Times Staff Writer

For almost 50 years, naturalist billy barr (who likes to spell his name in lowercase letters) has risen early in the morning and recorded the weather from his isolated home in Gothic, on the East River northwest of Crested Butte. barr, now in his seventies, is wrestling with aging hips and legs. He risks losing the lifestyle he has enjoyed in the northern valley for so many decades. He has a hip replacement tentatively scheduled for April.

Each winter, barr has measured snowpack with simple tools including a metal bucket, a wooden ruler and a notebook. The town of Gothic becomes its own snowed-in island, making barr rely solely on skis.

"If I get too disabled, then I'll be gone," said barr. "I'll just live in Gunnison and come out in the summers when I can get a ride out or something."

In 1972, billy barr was an undergraduate student from New Jersey and came to Gothic to work on water chemistry and quality on the East River for the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL). He shares a similar story with many locals in the valley: once here, he didn't want to leave. He first set up in an old mining shack, describing it as something someone would be embarrassed to put firewood in, let alone live in.

In the early 80s, he and two friends built the cabin where he still resides. Killing time in his solitude, barr documented the weather, snowfall levels and animal sightings. As years passed and his notebooks filled, a story of a changing climate emerged, first informing

the researchers at the RMBL, who were, conveniently, his neighbors in the summer.

barr's habitual hobby had inadvertently become rare and important climate work that eventually captured the attention of scientists and journalists all over the U.S. A short documentary about barr, called "The Snow Guardian" produced by Day's Edge Productions, was released in 2016. Numerous articles have been written about him for the Atlantic, National Geographic, CBS News and, just this November, the Washington Post. He even has a Wikipedia page. The valley indeed has its own unique celebrity.

"The whole thing of getting PR is highly embarrassing," barr said. "Because, first of all, every researcher that comes out here in the summer does that all the time, and they study it. I just write it down."

As much as barr believes his popularity is unjustified, he also finds it entertaining.

"I have no idea how long I'll last," he said. "When I was young, seventies was ancient, and now I'm like, well, I can do this for 10, 15 more years — no big deal, as soon as I get my legs."

barr continued, "Even if I wasn't doing weather, it'd be weird to leave here," he said. "I mean, there's a lot of advantages, too. I can go to the grocery store at a whim!"

When asked how it will feel to finally not be undertaking his winter routine, barr laughed, "Depends on the circumstances. If I'm dead, I don't think I'm gonna care."

While barr is recovering from surgery this spring, he will have to rely on someone to go up to his cabin each morning to do the official measurements.

After such heavy snowfall this month, it's already easy to forget 2021's record-setting, dry autumn. The long-term implications of barr's data show snow arriving later and melting earlier in the valley, mirroring trends across the globe.

What he sees for the valley's future is "maybe a second McDonald's!"

To provide a serious answer, barr said simply, "We've got water issues." The valley relies on its water as one of its most valuable resources for agriculture, for recreation, and "as the climate changes, and it is, we're gonna get less of it."

"So much of the West depends upon water, and as a culture, we have taken it so for granted that we pollute it, we dump it everywhere, we have green grass lawns in the semi-desert," he said. "Let's face it: Gunnison's a great town, but it's not supposed to have green lawns that people mow and then have to water them because they cut the grass so it's losing all the moisture from it. You should see the place I have in Gunnison."

barr advocates for better water conservation and better use, and jokes he is not yet certain if he is running for president.

This winter, billy barr will continue his familiar groove. It's a routine based on living a solitary lifestyle, and one he loves. Even if it is barr's last winter in Gothic, he will still be updating data daily on the website [gothicvix.org](http://gothicvix.org) and getting calls from climate researchers and nosy reporters.

For more of the valley's famous naturalist, check out the link below to BackStory's "On the bench with billy barr."

## BackStory



(Anna Coburn can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or [anna@gunnisonintimes.com](mailto:anna@gunnisonintimes.com).)

GUNNISON  
arts center



102 S. Main St. | (970) 641 - 4029  
[www.GunnisonArtsCenter.org](http://www.GunnisonArtsCenter.org)

## CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Our doors will be closed  
December 25 - January 10,  
opening only for Wacky Wednesdays &  
the January 7 ArtWalk & Music.

## EVENTS

### JANUARY ARTWALK & MUSIC @ THE GAC

Friday, January 7th, 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
Main Gallery: Staff & Instructor Exhibition  
Tredway Gallery: "Make a Scene" Lego Competition  
& Exhibit, Featuring the work of Maureen O'Donnell!

### ♥ Butter Together Movie Series ♥

## THE GOONIES

Friday, January 21  
Doors: 7:00 pm | Movie: 7:30 pm | \$10  
Vaccines or Negative Tests are required for theatre events

## EDUCATION

### Wacky Wednesdays (Ages 6 - 13)

Your Solution for GES Early Release.  
Session 1: Wednesdays, 2:00 - 3:00 pm.  
January 5 - March 9. (10 sessions)  
Tuition Support is Available!



WESTERN  
COLORADO UNIVERSITY

EXTENDED STUDIES

## WCU EXTENDED STUDIES SPRING 2022 CATALOG COURSES — OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

Introductory to Horsemanship Level 1:  
January 8 - February 12, 2022, \$180.00

Spanish for Beginners and Spanish for Intermediates:  
January 11 - March 1, 2022 (CB) and  
January 12 - March 2, 2022 (Gunnison), \$115.00

Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Guitar:  
January 25 - March 8, 2022, \$225.00

Design Your Life and Get After Your Goals!:  
February 2 - March 2, 2022, \$45.00

For a full list of courses, course descriptions and to register, please visit our website: [western.edu/academics/extended-studies](http://western.edu/academics/extended-studies).

# 'Rivers of words'

## Gunnison Writer George Sibley launches new blog

**Bella Biondini**  
Times Staff Writer

In November, local writer George Sibley introduced his readers to a new blog called "Sibley's Rivers," a place where his writing will explore the impacts of human activities on the watersheds and tributaries of the Colorado River.

In his first post, Sibley said that a visit to his blog will consist of a "river of words," filled with his reflections about "learning to live in the Anthropocene." This new geological time period is dominated by the changes humans "purposefully or inadvertently, have imposed on the planet's basic systems, changes which are now altering the conditions of existence for all life on the

planet," he wrote.

Although his blog will explore many topics about both the West and the Colorado River, which he calls the "First River of the Anthropocene," his "homebase will be the Upper Gunnison River valley and mountains."

Sibley's posts will not just be about these waterways, but about "us and how we interact with the rivers, landscapes, atmosphere, the planet itself — and how those interactions might change now that we are aware that we are a force for change on the planet, change we will have to live with," he wrote.

Sibley, who retired from teaching at Western Colorado University in 2007 and has had a successful career as a writer, said he started the blog because, like Bob Dylan said, "I need a dump truck, baby, to unload my head."

Sibley's Rivers can be found at [sibleysrivers.com](http://sibleysrivers.com).

*(Bella Biondini can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or [bella@gunnisontimes.com](mailto:bella@gunnisontimes.com).)*



Jacob.



Finn.

*Gunnison Country Chamber of Commerce*

### All great elf hunts must come to an end

The Gunnison Country Chamber of Commerce awarded 25 gift cards donated by toy store Abracadabra to children who completed the Great Gunnison Elf Hunt. The Gunnison Valley Resiliency Project and the chamber organized the event, and McDonald's of Gunnison and Abracadabra were the sponsors. Jacob and Finn, above, were two of the winners.

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE**

**MOBILE CRISIS SERVICES**  
FREE SERVICE AVAILABLE IN GUNNISON & HINSDALE COUNTIES.

GUNNISON VALLEY HEALTH

Gunnison Valley Health has trained clinicians available 24/7 to support individuals in Gunnison & Hinsdale Counties experiencing a crisis.

### WHAT TO DO IN A CRISIS?

**Call the Colorado Crisis Services Hotline at 844-493-TALK (8255) or text TALK to 38255.**

Their trained professionals provide free, immediate and confidential help 24/7/365.



**COLORADO**  
CRISIS SERVICES

**844-493-TALK (8255)**  
**OR TEXT TALK TO 38255**

**NO MORE FROZEN GRANDMA**



## GIGABIT FIBER NOW IN GUNNISON

**NO CONTRACT • UNLIMITED DATA • NO THROTTLING**



**(970) 784-4160**

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

# County looks to state funding for trail, river park



A surfer rides the first wave in the Gunnison Whitewater Park. Valley surfers have advocated for a redesign of the downstream feature to provide a more consistent wave. Sam Liehl

## High-tech wave considered for surfers, boaters

Sam Liehl  
Times Editor

Two recreation-oriented projects have risen to the top of Gunnison County's priorities in 2022. In both cases, funds raised from the Colorado Lottery and dispersed by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) are anticipated to pay for a large portion of the work.

Gunnison County commissioners on Tuesday voted in support of an application to GOCO for \$66,000 to help pay for the costs of planning a trail between Crested Butte and Crested Butte South. The vote came two weeks after commissioners approved up to \$60,000 for an engineering analysis of the Gunnison Whitewater Park, a first step in seeking \$375,000 in GOCO grants for the completion of improvements there.

Work on the whitewater park would remedy erosion issues around wave structures that have the potential to worsen and pose safety hazards in the future. Commissioners heard preliminary information about adding a wave shaper to the park, an adjustable steel ramp that sits underwater and can produce a consistent wave for kayaking or surfing.

McLaughlin Whitewater, the design and engineering firm that the county hired to assess the condition of the park over the summer, markets a proprietary WaveShaper device that, according to the company's website, typically adds 10-20% to the cost of a whitewater wave's construction. Boise, Idaho has installed the machine in its whitewater

park, and the consistent wave there has made it a magnet for river surfers across the U.S.

According to Gunnison County Public Works Director Marlene Crosby, McLaughlin in its assessment found damage on structure two — the middle wave in the park.

The county expected damage on structure two, Crosby said, because high water and iceflows were found to have taken a toll on the structure immediately downstream a few years ago. The county decided that the third structure was a priority to repair because it had become disconnected from the riverbed and therefore posed an entrapment hazard.

"There is damage, as we expected," Crosby said of structure two. "It is having some of the erosion damage under the structure. It is not a safety hazard at this time. Now we all know that can change, with one spring of high water but right now he did not see anything that was a safety issue for people in the river. And we know we have everything from toddlers playing on the bank to kayakers."

McLaughlin, however, recommends a replacement of structure two, and the company's engineers met with the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, kayakers and river surfers in September to discuss how safety and stability issues could be addressed while enhancing recreation.

For an estimated cost of \$55,000, McLaughlin proposed further study of the whitewater park, developing two alternatives for a new structure two and creating an estimated budget for the construction. Gunnison County has already budgeted \$224,500 in county funds in 2022 to the project. Combined with the anticipated GOCO funds, the county

expects to put \$599,000 into the whitewater park this year.

McLaughlin provided Crosby with an estimate for additional costs associated with the wave shaper. If it was included in the project, construction costs would increase by about \$100,000, Crosby said.

"If we are going to do it and if we have the opportunity and funds to do it, I would be in support of the wave shaper," Commissioner Roland Mason said. "But we need to figure out the hydrology and make sure it is not just blown out."

Mason said he was concerned that the county could spend thousands of dollars on a structure only to see it damaged or destroyed by spring runoff or crushing ice flows. Other Colorado whitewater parks, such as those on the Arkansas River, offer surfing waves but are downstream of reservoirs and do not contend with largely uncontrolled flows like the Gunnison River, he said.

"We want to make sure that if we put something in that it won't get wiped out in one season," Mason said.

### Crested Butte to CB South Trail

The idea of linking Crested Butte to Crested Butte South with a recreation path — and of eventually extending such a trail south to Gunnison — has been batted around for years. But county leaders think the timing is right to move the project forward.

Gunnison County has budgeted \$75,000 to a Crested Butte-Crested Butte South trail in 2022 and anticipates spending a total of \$1.5 million on the path over the next three years. The county is submitting by the end of this month an application for \$66,000 from GOCO with the county providing matching funds of

\$33,000. An additional \$16,000 in cash matches will come from the Town of Crested Butte, the Gunnison County Metropolitan District, the Crested Butte South Property Owners Association, the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association and the Tourism and Prosperity Partnership.

The county will learn whether it received the GOCO funds for planning in March.

According to Mason, if the county can put together a shovel-ready project, there is ample state and federal funding to proceed with construction.

The county's community development department and the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee said as much in a Nov. 9 letter to commissioners.

"The timing for planning this project has perhaps never been better, given the growing population in the north valley, increased recreational activity, rising interest in alternative forms of transportation, and available financial support opportunities from federal, state, and local sources," the letter read.

The letter noted that even the design work of the trail would be expensive, requiring a team to navigate the process of public engagement, alignment, landowner negotiations, features like bridges and snow storage and environmental considerations. The focus would be on working with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to use the department's right of way and to arrive at a timeline that would see construction take place in 5-10 years, the letter stated.

A vote by the state transportation commission on Dec. 16 makes the prospects of state funding even more hopeful. In a 10-1 vote, the commission approved changes

to Colorado's transportation planning rules that will shift priority to public transit and multimodal projects and away from road expansions. According to CDOT, the rule is intended to help the state reduce greenhouse gas emissions even as the population grows.

"Multimodal" is the key word to use as the county continues to seek funding for the project. According to Gunnison County Community and Economic Development Director Cathie Pagano, CDOT is "not really interested in a trail but they are very receptive to multimodal access."


Mason said the county is going to emphasize that the trail will connect Crested Butte, Crested Butte South and the neighborhoods in between for cyclists, e-bike riders and others, but that it will end up being a recreational amenity, too.

"I appreciate that this has always maintained its spot as a desirable community project and that actionable steps are being taken toward that," Houck said at the Nov. 16 commissioners' meeting.

Commissioner Liz Smith said the trail would be a benefit to the entire valley, not just the Crested Butte-Crested Butte South corridor.

"To the extent that we have ways for people to get to work that do not necessarily include people getting into an individual car — that is helpful to everybody," Smith said. "The idea has always been to get a trail that connects the entire South Valley to the North Valley, and we've never been able to piece that together. But this is one of the building blocks that could facilitate a solution like that."

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



## COVID-19 Vaccines

**Important Reminders:**

- 1** Gunnison County Public Health offers COVID-19 vaccination clinics on Monday and Friday.
- 2** If you need to get a COVID-19 vaccine (1st dose, 2nd dose, or booster) call to schedule an appointment at 970-641-3244.
- 3** These vaccine clinics are held in the public health clinic at GVH. You will receive location information when you schedule an appointment. Please wear your mask in all GVH facilities.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines visit <https://covid19.gunnisoncounty.org/vaccine/>

# Dry conditions persist on the Western Slope and beyond

## Snowpack in Gunnison Basin at half of normal

Gunnison Basin.

### Will more water be sent downstream?

With a high probability of another below average winter season, Richards said that a "main concern is that we will not have a sufficient run off to replenish supplies in Blue Mesa."

"It would take an extreme amount of snow to fill Blue Mesa next year," she said.

The reservoir continues to serve as a visual reminder of the severe drought conditions across the Western U.S. Blue Mesa has been reduced to a mere puddle from emergency downstream releases earlier this year to support the rapidly dropping water levels of Lake Powell. Last month the reservoir sat at 26% capacity or 91 feet from its full pool elevation, exposing the historic channel of the Gunnison River, previously hidden underneath the water.

Trying to measure the amount of snow needed for Blue Mesa to recover from the multi-year drought and emergency releases to Lake Powell, is "tricky," Miller said.

"Since about 2000, we've been in this drought period, and it's going to take more than one year for us to recover from it," Miller said. For the Gunnison River Basin, "it may take two or three consecutive years that are well above average for us to really start getting a little more comfortable."

The Colorado River Basin Forecast Center is predicting that inflow into Blue Mesa will be 83% of average during the 2022 water year, a 12-month period that begins on Oct. 1. But even if the basin receives the snow it needs this year, Miller said dry soil conditions can lead to inefficient runoff as the snowmelt is soaked into the ground in the springtime.

"If we got 100% of normal snowpack conditions this year, we wouldn't see 100% of normal runoff, because so much of that water is going to be replenishing those soils," he said. "That just means that our stakeholders are going to be operating with very small margins of water to work with."

John McClow, general counsel for the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, said projections this early in the year are speculative and likely to change. In addition to monitoring water levels at Blue Mesa, he has also kept an eye on reservoir conditions downstream.

Forecasts indicate that it is likely that Lake Powell will fall below 3,525 feet without some form of management as soon as March of next year, McClow

Bella Blondini  
Times Staff Writer

Views from the Red Lady Express lift at Crested Butte Mountain Resort last weekend included a sea of grass, some still green and all still uncovered by snow. Warm weather throughout the fall season had reduced the resort's ability to make its own snow, leaving most of the upper mountain still closed to skiers.

In the lower valley, November temperatures, nearly eight degrees higher than average, caused most of the little snow that's fallen to melt away. Residents remained hopeful that conditions might improve as snow flurries began falling on Monday afternoon, but snowpack levels across the state told a different story.

On Dec. 2, snowpack in most of Colorado hovered around 50-60% of average, based on data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. For the current water year, Gunnison Basin continues to experience dry conditions, sitting at about half of its average snowpack. The surrounding areas are also far below average. The Colorado headwaters sit at 59%, the Rio Grande headwaters at 32% of average, the Upper San Juan at 26%.

It's still early in the season and "a lot can change during this time of year," said Paul Miller, a hydrologist for the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center. "But right now, just looking at today's conditions, things are pretty dry over our area."

Conditions improved temporarily after July and August due to monsoon rains, but have since begun to worsen throughout the fall, said Water Resource Specialist Beverly Richards with the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 46% of Gunnison County still remains in severe drought.

The National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration Climate Prediction Center issued a La Niña advisory this fall that is expected to persist through the winter months. Historically the climate pattern, created by cooler water in the central Pacific Ocean which pushes the jetstream northward, results in higher probability for dry conditions and warmer temperatures for the

## GUNNISON SAVINGS & LOAN

Gunnison's Hometown Mortgage Lender for more than 109 years



**Kim Fahey**  
Loan Officer  
(970) 642-4644  
NMLS# 1534806



**Rob Bramwell**  
Loan Officer  
(970) 642-4645  
NMLS# 951456

**SPECIALIZING IN:**  
CONSTRUCTION • VA • FHA  
USDA • CONVENTIONAL



GUNNISON SAVINGS & LOAN



NMLS# 483354

continued on A11

continued from A10

said. This target elevation serves as a 35-foot buffer created to decrease the risk Powell falls below the minimum power pool line of 3,490 feet above sea level.

Instead of calling for additional water from the upper reservoirs, the Bureau of Reclamation has decided to hold onto the water in Lake Powell for the first three or four months of the year to allow more time for runoff to reach

the reservoir, McClow said, who attended a BOR briefing on Dec. 2. The annual release is still set at 7.48 million acre feet.

"They won't be taking any more water out of Blue Mesa on an emergency basis as they did this year," he said. "But if we have a horrendously dry winter, that could change."

*(Bella Biondini can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or bella@gunnisontimes.com.)*

## Creative District

from A1

tices," said Ewell. "They all stressed a lot the importance of not just seeing it in terms of economic development, but also as an opportunity to build social ties within a community."

According to Christine Costello, deputy director of CCI, that dimension was one of the things that made the Gunnison application for district designation stand out among others.

"Personally, I was excited by all of the visionary community members we met on my site visit and their genuine commitment to building social good," she said. Costello said she was particularly impressed by the Gunnison team's acknowledgement of the region's "changing demographics" and determination to provide access to people from all walks of life.

"I love it when somebody gets creative with tattoos or painting their cars, or kids doing innovative things with their phone cameras," said Ewell. "People are inventing art forms all the time," she said, and the idea of a creative district is to enable opportunity for everyone.

Traditional state-funded arts councils typically treat the arts as a "charity case," said Jeff Taylor, chairman of the local effort to achieve certification. By placing CCI in the Office of Economic Development and International Trade — instead of the Department of Higher Education, say — Colorado leaders signaled their belief that creatives add more than just a vague cultural value to their communities, Taylor said.

"Colorado really is at the cutting edge of this whole paradigm shift towards creative industries," Taylor said. "It reflects a wider understanding of what can be the sustainable 21st century economy. That is a recognition of the importance that the creative industries play, especially in an economy like ours in the Mountain West, where older concepts of extraction are no longer viable and ultimately we have to turn to our own creative resources."

According to a 2017 National Endowment for the Arts participation study, there's good reason for Colorado to lead the way. The

survey found that the state ranked first in the nation in the percentage of people who "personally perform or create artworks." However, CCI's working definition of what constitutes "creative" activity spans a lot more than what is traditionally considered "the arts."

For example, on a site-tour during the approval process, CCI members visited local businesses like Rooted Apothecary, ID Sculptures, Tributary Coffee and Dobrato Resonance Guitars. All of these businesses — and others like them — are run by craftspeople and form part of the "creative culture" of Gunnison.

Carlie Kenton, executive director of the Gunnison Arts Center participated in the site visit. "It was really eye opening to see all the diverse creative assets we have all in one day," she said.

To become a creative district involved an arduous application process, Kenton said. To even be eligible to apply, organizers had to form a dedicated 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (complete with board of directors), write the "story" of Gunnison's cultural heritage, create a strategic plan, demonstrate community buy-in and raise at least \$10,000.

"A lot of people invested a lot of time," Kenton said. The funding was donated by Gunnison Valley Properties, the company developing the Gunnison Rising project east of town. The district boundaries were drawn to include the "live-work" portion of the new development.

"It wasn't a difficult decision, just common sense, for us to invest in something that so clearly benefits the whole community," said Gunnison Rising proponent Dick Bratton. Referencing Florida's book, "The Rise of the Creative Class," Bratton said, "that book says that communities that are stronger culturally and intellectually are also stronger economically."

Next steps, now that the creative district designation is secured, include forming a permanent board of directors and getting busy crafting a strategic plan. Gunnison residents who would like to serve on the commission should send letters of interest to Brianna Radford at brianna@gunnisonartscenter.org.

*(Alan Wartes can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or publish@gunnisontimes.com.)*

**Ohio Avenue Multimodal Project**

Join City of Gunnison staff and consultants to review plans for the multimodal transportation improvements to be constructed on Ohio Avenue Summer of 2022.

December 15th, 2021 | 5:30-7:00PM

Contact Lisa Starkebaum at lstarkebaum@gunnisonco.gov for additional information.

**Meeting Location**  
Gunnison City Hall, Council Chambers 201 W. Virginia Ave.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING & VACANT LAND NEAR TOWN**

**364 MESA LOOP**  
**PRICE \$275,000**  
CHEN 788720

**152 +/- ACRES ON COUNTY ROAD 17**  
**\$788,000**  
CHEN 772790

**NESBITT & COMPANY LLC**  
Bill Nesbitt | gunnisonhomes.com | 104 E. Tenick Ave. | 970-2235

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES**

**EXPERIENCE THE LIFE**  
LOVE • PEACE • HOPE • JOY

**Bible Teaching**  
*that's practical and encouraging*

**Contemporary Worship**  
*that's inspiring and uplifting*

**Genuine Community**  
*providing support and connection*

*Serving the Gunnison Valley for 25 Years*

Pastors John & Karen Clement 1040 Hwy. 135 Gunnison, CO 81230  
Weekly Sunday Morning Services 9:30am Children's Church & Nursery Provided

**970.641.0158**  
RMCMchurch.org

# Matt McCombs named new Colorado State Forester

Times staff report

Following a successful national search, U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Matt McCombs will take leadership of the Colorado State Forest Service and become Colorado's new state forester on Jan. 3.

"The people of Colorado and the millions of Americans who depend on Colorado's forests deserve leadership and action equivalent to both the splendor of our natural heritage but also as importantly the historic challenges facing our forests," McCombs said. "I am deeply humbled and honored to carry forward the proud legacy of the Colorado State Forest Service as Colorado's next state forester."

McCombs takes the lead of the agency following his time as the U.S. Forest Service district ranger for the 1.3-million-acre Gunnison Ranger District, part of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests.

Although he is leaving both the Forest Service and the Gunnison Basin, "I don't really feel like I'm leaving, the issues or the relationships that I've established here," McCombs said. "It's just I'm going to be able to come at them from a different perspective."

His career has spanned both natural resources and forestry management as well as other governmental work, beginning as an aide to U.S. Senators Ken Salazar and Jon Tester. McCombs is also a veteran, having deployed to Iraq in 2003 as a combat medic with the Colorado Army National Guard and serving as a medical service officer in the Montana Air National Guard where he achieved the rank of captain before leaving the service in 2012.

"Matt has had a unique professional career with a blend of leadership, forest management and legislative affairs experience that come together to create the ideal skill set and background for a state forester," said Dean John Hayes of Colorado State University's Warner College of Natural Resources, the administrative home of the CSFS, which also provides staffing for the Division of Forestry within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

The Colorado State Forest Service is a critically important agency charged with providing technical forestry assistance, wildfire mitigation expertise and outreach and education in support of maintaining the health of

Colorado's 24-million acres of forests. The agency's work impacts every Coloradan's life in significant tangible and intangible ways, and the agency's efforts have never been more salient in addressing the state's environmental and natural resource challenges.

"Matthew has had a distinguished career in natural resource and forest management and will be a significant asset to the Colorado State Forest Service as its next state forester," said Dan Gibbs, executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. "Matt arrives at an important time for Colorado forests, and I look forward to our collaboration as our state tackles our forest health and wildfire mitigation challenges."

McCombs comes to the CSFS following the departure of former State Forester Mike Lester this past summer. Susan Matthews, Colorado's deputy state forester, has served in the interim role since Lester's departure and characterized the agency's position as strong in terms of meeting the challenges that lie ahead and said the agency was thrilled to have him take on its leadership.

"Matt brings a wealth of knowledge about the health and management of Colorado's forests from his time at the U.S. Forest Service - an important partner for us at the CSFS. With the convergence of both enormous challenges and equally tremendous opportunities for our state's forests, he has the experience to guide the CSFS as we meet this critical moment for the forests and residents of Colorado," Matthews said.

McCombs is moving to Fort Collins, but said he was able to keep his property in Crested Butte South, so "we'll still have a little small piece of ourselves here in the valley and an opportunity to, to come back and visit whenever we can."

When reflecting on his time in the Gunnison Valley, McCombs said he is most proud of the "work we did together with designing and implementing designating camping above Crested Butte," as well as addressing the pine beetle outbreak with numerous stakeholders in Taylor Canyon.

"If there's anything that I'll take away from my time here in the Gunnison country, it'll be that doing the hard work of building something together that you couldn't have built on your own, which is, in my mind, collaboration, is absolutely necessary for success."

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE**  
**MOBILE CRISIS SERVICES**  
 FREE SERVICE AVAILABLE IN GUNNISON & HINSDALE COUNTIES.

GUNNISON VALLEY HEALTH  
THE WELLNESS CONNECTION

Gunnison Valley Health has trained clinicians available 24/7 to support individuals in Gunnison & Hinsdale Counties experiencing a crisis.

### WHAT TO DO IN A CRISIS?

**Call the Colorado Crisis Services Hotline at 844-493-TALK (8255) or text TALK to 38255.**

Their trained professionals provide free, immediate and confidential help 24/7/365.



**COLORADO**  
**CRISIS SERVICES**

**844-493-TALK (8255)**  
**OR TEXT TALK TO 38255**

*Wishing all Happy Holidays From all of us at Gunnison Real Estate and Rentals*

**Thank you for allowing us to serve you and our community, we are honored to be one of the top producing offices in the city of Gunnison Colorado and will continue to be available to assist and serve our community when needed.**

**MORE TOWNHOMES COMING SPRING 2022!**

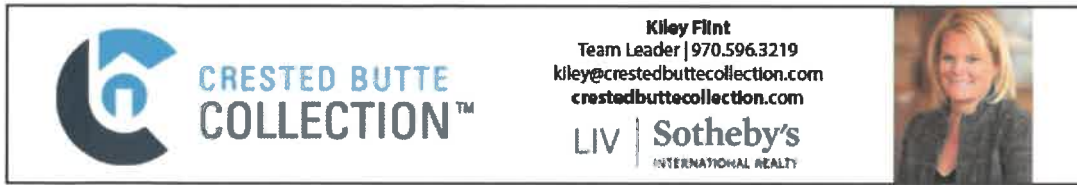
**10 BRAND NEW HOMES!** Well appointed and tastefully decorated townhomes in Gunnison's newest and fastest growing neighborhood. Two & Three bedroom units, most have attached garage.

**414 E. Gothic MLS #779044 & 779049 \$1,090,000**  
 5 units with excellent rental history and located steps from campus! The front is an older Victorian that had been split into 3 units. Duplex in the back was put in 1996 and has 2 units that are each 3 bed/2 bath units with W/D, D/W and newer paint and flooring. There is also a side storage shed attached to the front house and a free standing 1 car garage in the back. Currently the property gross rent is \$5,475/month.

**KELLY MCKINNIS**      **970.641.4880**      **AJ MANI**  
 129 EAST TOMICHI AVENUE  
 GUNNISONREALESTATEANDRENTALS.COM

# HEAVY SNOW IS GOOD BUT STILL A WAYS TO GO TO FILL RESERVOIRS

🕒 December 29, 2021 👁 365 Views



We've sort of forgotten what 'normal' looks like...

[ by Mark Reaman ]

The Gunnison Basin is now above average in terms of snow for the season but it isn't as much as you might think. The current multi-day storm has put the area at close to 120-percent above average for the end of December. Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District general manager Sonja Chavez said that while "the snow has been wonderful and anything is a blessing," it would take more than one big storm to fill the local reservoirs like Blue Mesa and Taylor.

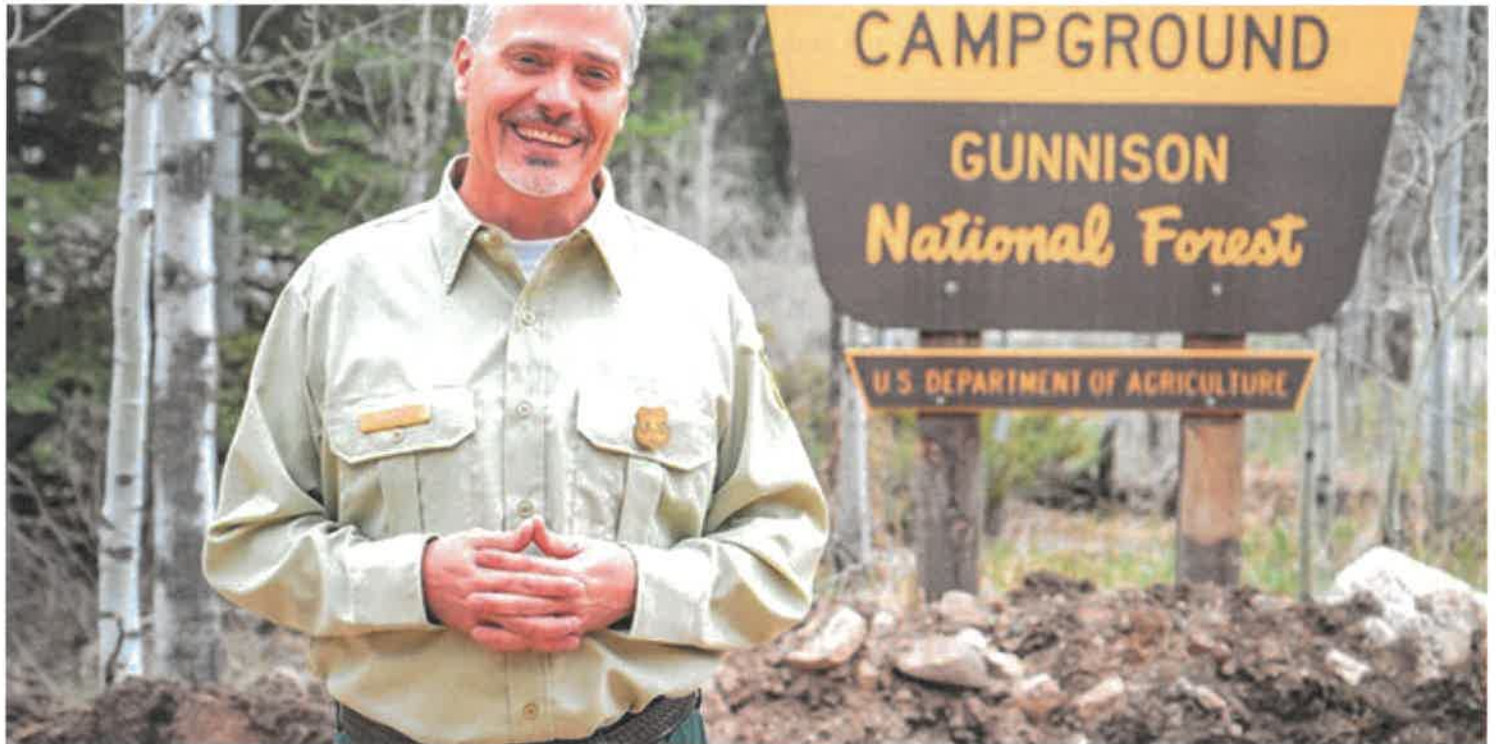
"I think we have been in drought so long that we've forgotten what good snow looks like," she quipped this week. "We need our snowpack to stay well above 150-percent through April in order to replenish the soil moisture profile and see average stream flow conditions. If we can do that, we should be able to fill Blue Mesa again. We've experienced so many back-to-back years of drought that we've sort of forgotten what 'normal' looks like."

Chavez said preliminary Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) data indicates that this winter's snowfall is only about 119-percent of normal for this time of year but 169-percent of what was on the ground at this time in 2020.

"Because our soil moisture conditions were so poor heading into this winter, we need a sustained late season April snowpack of above 150-percent of average in order to fill the soil profile again and then hopefully see healthy stream flows," she explained. "Looking back at historical Blue Mesa Reservoir levels similar to where we are at now (27-percent full), the reservoir did recover and fill with average stream inflow conditions, so cross your fingers.



"We're not complaining and we like what we're seeing so far and hope it continues," she concluded.





## Q&A WITH MATT MCCOMBS

🕒 December 29, 2021    👁 373 Views

 <p><b>CRESTED BUTTE COLLECTION™</b></p>	<p><b>Kiley Flint</b> Team Leader   970.596.3219 kiley@crestedbuttecollection.com crestedbuttecollection.com</p> <p>LIV   <b>Sotheby's</b> INTERNATIONAL REALTY</p>	
---	---	--

### Collaboration a key for valley

[ by Mark Reaman ]

*Matt McCombs has been the district ranger for the Gunnison National Forest for more than four years but will start a new job January 3 as Colorado's state forester. He brought a passion for public lands and collaboration and we wanted to have a chat about his perspectives before he left his home in CB South for the Front Range.*

*MR: Let's start with what your new job is and what you'll be doing? What is it and where will you be located?*

MM: The title of my new role is state forester and director of the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS). The CSFS is housed within the Warner School of Natural Resources at Colorado State University and my new office is located at the Foothills Campus in Fort Collins near Horsetooth Reservoir. The State Forester leads the CSFS while also providing staffing to the Division of Forestry within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. The mission of the CSFS is "to achieve stewardship of Colorado's diverse forest environments for



the benefit of present and future generations.” The agency provides outreach and technical services to private landowners, partner organizations and state and federal agencies ensuring Colorado’s forests are managed effectively while advancing adaptive strategies across all ownerships to respond to a changing climate and the challenges associated with a rapidly growing state and country.

*MR: How will that differ from your district ranger position with the Gunnison Forest?*

MM: As the state forester my role will serve at the state level much the way the chief of the USDA Forest Service functions at the national level. I’ll be leading the agency as opposed to functioning as a field level manager implementing the agency’s mission thus shifting my focus from field operations to championing CSFS employees, advising state legislators and the Governor on policy and deepening relationships with a variety of communities and interests across the state and country in support of Colorado’s forests.

*MR: With the new position, will you have any involvement with issues in this region?*

MM: Absolutely, much of Gunnison County and the Western Slope are blanketed with forested landscapes. My concentration here will remain stewarding Colorado’s forests for clean water, air and soil, abundant habitats for people and wildlife and responding to the challenges associated with a warming climate and rapidly growing populations. I’ll just be doing so vicariously through the capable CSFS staff based here in the basin.

*MR: You’ve been in the valley for four-and-a-half years. What did you expect when you came here?*

MM: The Gunnison Ranger District is one of the largest in the country and has a reputation for some of the grandest landscapes one can manage in the USFS. There is a reason that the job has only opened up three times in roughly 30 years. I came having a good sense of the ground and many of the players from my time with Senator Salazar’s office and as a frequent visitor to the basin growing up on the Front Range and as a recurrent Western Slope resident. I expected it to be a great place to stretch my wings in the fields of collaboration and recreation management.

*MR: Was it what you expected?*

MM: It was more than I expected. The month I started was the month the STOR committee met for the first time. This fortuitous juncture has underwritten much of the district’s success while I’ve been here, helping us take on successfully some of the most pressing challenges facing the forest around recreation. On the vegetation management side our partnership with Western’s Center for Public Lands facilitated creation of the Taylor Park Adaptive Management Group which aided transparent, stakeholder-driven timber and fuels planning in the Taylor Basin setting up the program for the next decade. Add in a supportive, innovative and dedicated staff and this assignment has been a highpoint in my land management career, exceeding my

expectations and completely changed my perspective on what's possible when you dig in and do the hard work of building something together you couldn't have built on your own.

*MR: It feels to me that you jumped in quickly and brought a new energy and direction to the job that was centered on collaboration. Is that fair?*

MM: I get a sense generally the community is pleased with the direction we've taken the district together. The pace of change and our collective response in facing down the shifts we're seeing in visitation, technology as well as the impacts from a changing climate has been marked by thoughtful and innovative action and folks are happy we've moved out as we have. From my vantage we've built up a stronger foundation in relationships and expectations that will serve the community well boosting our ability to raise funds, plan together and continue to grow our impact. We've proven we can act big and move swiftly when we're in alignment and communicating our concerns and ambitions in real time as opposed to responding to crisis as it happens.

*MR: What sort of accomplishments came from that collaboration?*

MM: There's a litany of cool stuff to celebrate however, I'll offer three things that stand out. First is the work we did together in the north valley to address the unreasonable impacts from rapidly growing visitation. The designated camping project was accomplished leveraging every tool we had in the toolbox: collaboration; partnering; and innovative financing. This project showed us the power of students in Western's Masters in Environmental Management program and introduced the Gunnison Country to our friends at the National Forest Foundation who've now taken up permanent residence. It will serve as an example for addressing similar challenges across the district and the country.

Two, the rapid response initiated to address the mountain pine beetle epidemic in Taylor Canyon has become THE model for shared stewardship nationally. The district took on that challenge at scale, working across boundaries through shared priority setting bringing together federal, state, non-profit and private interests. It really is a story of everything working and a concept I'll be taking to scale in my new role.

The last project, which I'll not get to see through to fruition, is the work we're doing to settle now and forever the future of Mt. Emmons. I was well aware of the complicated history surrounding Red Lady before I arrived. I'll be back for the party when this amazing alliance of federal, state, community and corporate interests comes together to ink what I think will be a groundbreaking model for land exchanges for the agency. Beyond that, I get excited for the future of beavers in this valley, for more restored wet meadows, for the potential of fenceless grazing management, for well-built and well-managed trails and a growing integration of forest stewards that draws together corps crews, volunteers, students and local governments

to love on the backyard.

*MR: Why has it worked here?*

MM: I've commented many times, this place just seems hardwired to work together. Be it preserving a species, a way of life or charting the course for a new future, the people of the Gunnison Country seem to dig doing it together even if it gets a little spicy along the way. This is not a ubiquitous quality present in every community. It's a special one and sets us apart and needs to be actively conserved as the challenges, the change and the opportunities keep rolling in.

*MR: What were some of the most fun things you've done here, both professionally and personally?*

MM: Monday staff meetings with donuts and coffee, camping under the stars after a long day of canoeing, fishing and paddle boarding on Spring Creek Reservoir, happy hour at Pita's, Father's Day dinners at Garlic Mike's, yucking it up at STOR meetings, cruising 401 for the first time, hiking to the top of Cochetopa Dome, WESA tourneys in Junction and Durango, driving the district and talking to folks on fire patrol, bombing International, taking the dogs up Cement and Halloween parties at our place at CB South, which we're keeping by the way. All these things involved new friends who we'll not let go no matter where life takes us.

*MR: What do you see in terms of the community involvement with public lands in this county in the short-term and long-term?*

MM: This is the hallmark of our success. One of my maxims is "broadly supported equals implementable." I hope that the collaborative spirit that has guided our achievements during my time endure and that the community understands collaborating should not be optional for their District Rangers, it's the secret sauce that allows us to plan, act and monitor together proactively, quick-wittedly and democratically.

*MR: What sort of insight did you glean from your time here that you can take to the new job?*

MM: The lasting impression of my time here is a foot stomp affirmation that America's public lands are truly the brightest and most beautiful demonstration of democracy the world has ever seen. The idea that we put aside not just any lands but the best lands to the benefit of the many as opposed to the few is a truly remarkable thing to be a part of. Our forests unite people in ways no other power can, they sustain what's best in us as a society, they renew body and mind, house our wild neighbors and ensure the water keeps flowing.

As Colorado's next state forester my focus will be singular to ensuring the health and productivity of Colorado's forests regardless of ownership. My mission will be to ensure the benefits of well-managed forests persist deep into the future and to leave things better than we find them.

*MR: Any advice for this community as you move to the Front Range?*

MM: I landed into your community as a fellow Coloradan deeply absorbed by the landscapes that define who we are. I've been haunting the Western Slope in phases my entire life. What I've learned from this role is working together doesn't just feel good, it is the good. It shouldn't be discretionary. The USDA Forest Service has a job to do, has a jurisdictional responsibility to manage these lands on your behalf. However, I believe there is an equal charge for agency leaders and staff to draw people in, to connect them, to share in this weighty charge.

None of this is in the Constitution, it's just really good ideas translated into a national ambition and safeguarded to date by the law of the land. Laws can change, thus the people not just their agents need to feel coupled to the land and its management so in return they support and defend it from the trials and tribulations of an unknowable future. Bottom line, whoever comes in behind, tell 'em "collaboration is how we do it here, and we do it well."



**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**July 26, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Activity Enterprise conducted a semi-annual meeting on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. in the District offices, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B, Gunnison, CO, 81230.

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

Board members absent: Michelle Pierce

Others participating:

Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
John McClow, General Counsel  
Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist  
Jill Steele, Office Manager  
Sue Uerling, Administrative Assistant

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Stacy McPhail called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

Vice President Stacy McPhail asked if there were any items to be removed for discussion from the consent agenda. None were requested.

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

**4. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPOINTING FINANCIAL OFFICERS**

Vice President Stacy McPhail referenced the resolution included in the packet and asked if there were any questions. None were brought forward.

**Director Rebie Hazard and Director Nania seconded approval of WAE Resolution 2021-03 appointing the WAE financial officers as follows: Michelle Pierce, Board President; Stacy McPhail, Board Vice President; John Perusek, Board Secretary; Bill Nesbitt, Board Treasurer; and, Sonja Chavez, General Manager. The motion carried.**

**5. MERIDIAN LAKE RESERVOIR UPDATE:**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that she made a field visit to Meridian Lake on July 8, 2021 and it measured 9,345 acre-feet at that time, which was 66 acre-feet lower than last year. The Board was reminded that rates were set in January 2021 as follows: The initial cost is \$3,500 per base unit and the annual, administrative fee for 2021 is \$55.00 per base unit.

**6. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER:**

Vice President Stacy McPhail asked if there were any miscellaneous matters. Director Joellen Fonken asked if the WAE loan had been paid off and it was confirmed that the WAE operating loan of \$75,000 has been paid to the UGRWCD. Water Resource Specialist Bev Richards reported that to date, there have been 634 based units sold with 333 available units remaining.

**7. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Vice President Stacy McPhail asked if there were any citizen comments, and none were brought forward.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Vice President Stacy McPhail adjourned the Water Activity Enterprise meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED:

---

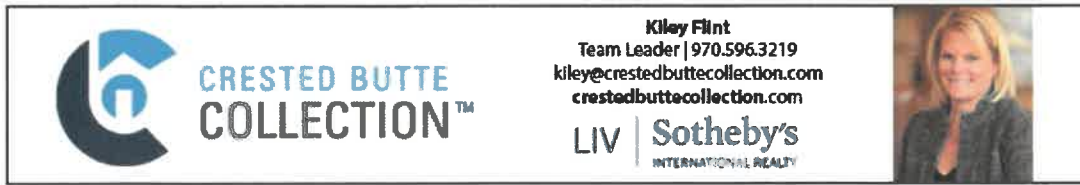
John Perusek, Secretary

---

Stacy McPhail, Vice President

# COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT CONSIDERS HYDROLOGY CHALLENGES

🕒 December 1, 2021 👁 276 Views



## Augmentation on Crystal River appears imminent

[ By Katherine Nettles ]

The user demands on the Colorado River have long been an issue for communities located along its path and the path of its tributaries, and those are becoming more apparent on areas such as the Crystal River within and adjacent to Gunnison County. Stakeholder groups are forming around demand management, anti-speculation legislation and natural infrastructure solutions to keep water flowing for residents along the Crystal River even as drought conditions have prompted senior water right calls from downstream.

The Colorado River Water District is part of those conversations looking at how to maintain viable residential water supplies along the Crystal River, a tributary to the Colorado. Water levels at the Glen Canyon Dam feeding Lake Powell are projected to drop below an elevation of 3,525 feet by January 2022. That decrease will trigger other actions to protect the levels required to maintain hydroelectric energy production at the dam.

“It’s not the elevation where the turbines stop working, but it is a critical elevation in terms of planning and it’s obviously going the wrong direction for us,” said Colorado River District board member Kathleen Curry in a fall update to Gunnison County commissioners. “The hydrology on the Colorado River has not improved.”

Zane Kessler, CRWD director of government relations, reported that he attended the CRWD’s last meeting in July, and thanks to ballot measure 7A, which passed last year with 70 percent approval and debruced the district, he said the river district is better funded for some smaller projects in the area.

“We’re excited to put those dollars to work here in Gunnison County and throughout the district,” said Kessler. He described current projects the district has worked on, including a Lake Irwin piping project, culvert work at the Rosich ditch, and Upper Gunnison River restoration.

Kessler also brought up Crystal River challenges. He reviewed that in 2018 the town of Marble, Carbondale and seven subdivisions, including three within Gunnison County, were served notice by the state engineer that they do not have a legal water supply on hotter, drier years. Senior calls downstream trumped even those “who have pretty senior water rights on that river,” said Kessler. “There’s just not enough water in that river to satisfy all of the needs.”

Kessler said the CRWD has been asked by the state to come in with West Divide Conservancy District and discuss what some augmentation options might look like. He said that is not a popular concept along the Crystal River, and “tends to cause a lot of people to run to their corners.” But he said the effort to get out and meet with folks has helped to discuss opportunities with natural water storage or aquifer recharge. He emphasized that they have committed not to use dams or main stem diversions or storage on the Crystal.

“But it’s possible that we may need some ponds and a collection of resources that can get water downstream to those water users. Ultimately, we don’t want families going without water. And we don’t want our municipalities to struggle to provide for our shared constituents,” said Kessler. He said the river district is working with a natural infrastructure expert from Ouray to assess opportunities, and they may end up requesting state or federal funds for the process.

The district is also seeking a wild and scenic designation for the Crystal River. “It’s going to require a robust and thoughtful stakeholder process,” said Kessler, as Gunnison County has more river mileage than any other county in the wild and scenic proposal. “We would welcome your voice in that process and participation,” he told county commissioners.

County commissioner chairperson Jonathan Houck recalled that right before the pandemic the county and river district were advocating for the process of getting appointments to the Colorado River roundtable for Gunnison County and a municipal appointment for the town of Marble.

“I think that’s an important part of it as well,” said Houck.

Kessler agreed that Gunnison County and Marble, whose voices are currently missing from the roundtable, would be important. “They are taking that process up again,” he said. Houck noted that the Crystal River discussions need to be approached as a watershed, not just one particular area or interest.

Kessler said that protection and restoration are important aspects to the process. “It’s a river that is facing serious impacts from climate change.”



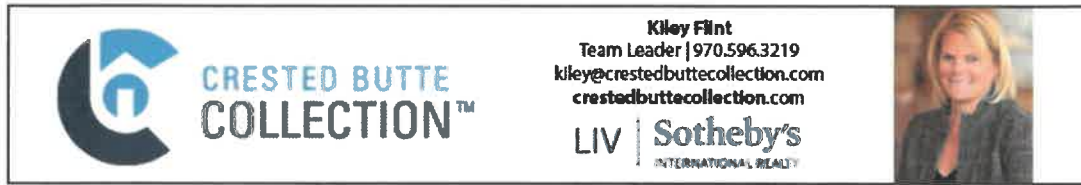
There is a river district stakeholder group discussing demand management and another working group has formed to respond to anti-speculation legislation, said Curry. The river district has been working to settle on a policy regarding anti-speculation, and adopted one at the July meeting.

The river district met for its fourth quarter update in October and anticipates meeting next in January 2022.



# RV DUMP STATION CONTROVERSY SHOWING SIGNS OF PROGRESS

🕒 November 3, 2021 👁 927 Views



**But timing an issue if utility extension comes into play**

*[ by Mark Reaman ]*

With no entity in the valley jumping up to offer a space for a Recreational Vehicle (RV) dump station in the northern part of the valley and the town of Crested Butte ready to be rid of the current dump space given neighborhood complaints, early discussion is brewing about eventually placing one in Avalanche Park by the current Baxter Gulch trailhead south of town.

The ultimate idea would be to tie a new RV dump station into a sewer line that could run between the town of Crested Butte and Gunnison County's proposed Whetstone affordable housing development located south of the Brush Creek turnoff. That would obviously mean extending utility lines outside of town which is somewhat unusual and not cheap. Crested Butte Recreation, Open Space and Trails supervisor Joey Carpenter said at the November 1 council meeting that it is estimated that constructing a sewer line would cost about \$1.3 million per mile. It is approximately two miles from town to the Whetstone parcel. Given there is not yet a definitive plan for the affordable housing development, the utility line extension would not occur for several years and the town of Crested Butte has promised that every effort to find an alternative location for the RV dump station would be determined by the summer of 2023.

Carpenter gave council an update on the overall RV dump station situation and communicated that with the new traffic configuration and other mitigation measures implemented on the northeast side of town, it appeared many of the complaints lodged by neighborhood residents near the dump station had been eliminated. He emphasized that more research was to be done and a more complete report would be coming in the spring.

"Honestly, no one is raising their hand to add on an RV dump station in their area. It's a hot potato," Carpenter said in regard to the possibility that the Mt. Crested Butte Water and San District, the Crested Butte South Metro District or the East River Sanitation District would show any interest in taking on the facility. "The idea of using Avalanche Park while possibly extending utilities to the Whetstone parcel has just

come up in the last two weeks. It is very preliminary but that would be feasible and have enough flow to handle the waste since it would serve residents in Whetstone. But it is a number of years out.”

In a memo to the council Carpenter stated that if town utilities were extended to the Whetstone site it could be viable to place the RV dump in Avalanche Park along Highway 135 and have a pull in/pull out area on the northern edge of the property. He emphasized that while it could be an ideal spot given lack of neighbors and location along the highway, such a move would require extensive planning and funding to pull it off. Permission would likely be required from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to not build additional turn lanes at the site. He described the Avalanche Park possibility as “the most promising, reasonable and cost effective solution to relocating the dump.” The downside would be that it would not be possible to complete by the start of 2023 and council would need to consider continuing with the current situation or taking the current town RV dump offline and not having such a facility in the north part of the valley for a while.

Mayor Jim Schmidt asked if a holding tank that was pumped regularly could be placed at Avalanche Park. Carpenter said it was possible, but the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has indicated that if the tank took in more than 2,000 gallons of waste on any given single day, more stringent regulations would be imposed immediately. Carpenter said based on his research, RVs average about 40 gallons of waste each when using the dump so if 35 to 40 RVs, especially the larger ones, start utilizing the facility in a day, it could start to approach the upper limit.

Using preliminary numbers from observations of the RV dump operations this past summer the facility averaged 22 RVs per day. The biggest day peaked on August 1 with 28 vehicles. In his report, Carpenter said it appeared that many of the issues identified through neighborhood complaints had essentially gone away. The average speed of vehicles came in at 17 miles per hour so speeding seemed to no longer be an issue. There was no observation of congestion or “vehicle stacking” along Butte Avenue or Eighth Street and people’s driveways and private property were not being blocked. “Speeding and congestion issues seem to have been mitigated with the measures we took this summer and that’s a big win for us,” Carpenter said.

“Quite a few people have been working on this,” he said. “The STOR (Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation) committee has been very helpful. All the partners working on this have been awesome trying to move this forward.”

Crested Butte community development director Troy Russ assured the council that no decision on the matter was expected any time soon but it would be coming back to them next spring.

“The Whetstone alternative comes with the timing issue,” Carpenter told the council. “A decision on whether to extend the use of the current station given the lessening of impacts will have to be made at some point.”



# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Citizen Comments**

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

## **Future Meetings**

## FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- ▶ Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention in Aurora-January 26-29, 2022
- ▶ Watershed Management Planning Committee-February 14, 2022 at 1:30 PM
- ▶ UGRWCD Grant Applications are due by 5 PM-February 15, 2022
- ▶ UGRWCD Board of Directors Meeting (tentative)-February 28, 2022 at 5:30 PM
- ▶ Grant Committee meets for grants review-March 2, 2022 at 3:00 PM
- ▶ Watershed Management Planning Committee-March 14, 2022 at 1:30 PM
- ▶ UGRWCD Board of Directors Meeting (tentative)-March 28, 2022 at 5:30 PM

# **AGENDA ITEM 10**

## **Summary of Action Items**





## *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

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

### **WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING Monday, January 24, 2022**

- |             |             |           |  |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| 7:20        | p.m.        | 1.        | Call to Order  |
| 7:21        | p.m.        | 2.        | Agenda Approval  |
| 7:23        | p.m.        | 3.        | <p><b>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of July 26, 2021 Minutes</li> <li>• Upper Gunnison Water Activity Enterprise 2021 Budget Summary</li> <li>• Adoption of Resolution 2022-1 to Set Posting Place</li> <li>• Consideration of Expenses</li> </ul> |
| 7:30        | p.m.        | 4.        | Meridian Lake Reservoir Update   |
| 7:40        | p.m.        | 5.        | <b>Adoption of 2022 Budget</b>   |
| <b>7:55</b> | <b>p.m.</b> | <b>6.</b> | <b>Citizen Comments</b>  |
| 8:00        | p.m.        | 7.        | Miscellaneous Matters  |
| 8:10        | p.m.        | 8.        | Summary of Meeting Action Items  |
| 8:15        | p.m.        | 9.        | 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.

# **WAE AGENDA ITEM 3**

## **Consent Agenda Items**

**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**July 26, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Activity Enterprise conducted a semi-annual meeting on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. in the District offices, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B, Gunnison, CO, 81230.

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

Board members absent: Michelle Pierce

Others participating:

Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
John McClow, General Counsel  
Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist  
Jill Steele, Office Manager  
Sue Uerling, Administrative Assistant

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Stacy McPhail called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

Vice President Stacy McPhail asked if there were any items to be removed for discussion from the consent agenda. None were requested.

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

**4. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPOINTING FINANCIAL OFFICERS**

Vice President Stacy McPhail referenced the resolution included in the packet and asked if there were any questions. None were brought forward.

**Director Rebie Hazard and Director Nania seconded approval of WAE Resolution 2021-03 appointing the WAE financial officers as follows: Michelle Pierce, Board President; Stacy McPhail, Board Vice President; John Perusek, Board Secretary; Bill Nesbitt, Board Treasurer; and, Sonja Chavez, General Manager. The motion carried.**

**5. MERIDIAN LAKE RESERVOIR UPDATE:**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that she made a field visit to Meridian Lake on July 8, 2021 and it measured 9,345 acre-feet at that time, which was 66 acre-feet lower than last year. The Board was reminded that rates were set in January 2021 as follows: The initial cost is \$3,500 per base unit and the annual, administrative fee for 2021 is \$55.00 per base unit.

**6. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER:**

Vice President Stacy McPhail asked if there were any miscellaneous matters. Director Joellen Fonken asked if the WAE loan had been paid off and it was confirmed that the WAE operating loan of \$75,000 has been paid to the UGRWCD. Water Resource Specialist Bev Richards reported that to date, there have been 634 based units sold with 333 available units remaining.

**7. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Vice President Stacy McPhail asked if there were any citizen comments, and none were brought forward.

**8. ADJOURMENT:**

Vice President Stacy McPhail adjourned the Water Activity Enterprise meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED:

---

John Perusek, Secretary

---

Stacy McPhail, Vice President

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE - BUDGET SUMMARY 2021

	Jan. - March 2021	April - June 2021	July - Sept. 2021	Oct. - Dec. 2021	2021 YTD	2021 BUDGET	2021 % TO DATE
<b>REVENUE</b>							
Water Contract Sales	\$ 214,434	\$ 3,500	\$ 35,000	\$ -	252,934	\$ -	
Annual Assessments	33,763	187	654	-	34,603	33,183	104%
Interest on Investments	8	5	11	22	47	850	6%
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 248,205</b>	<b>\$ 3,692</b>	<b>\$ 35,665</b>	<b>\$ 22</b>	<b>\$ 287,584</b>	<b>\$ 34,033</b>	<b>845%</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
<i>Administrative Salaries</i>	<b>\$ 3,519</b>	<b>\$ 3,519</b>	<b>\$ 3,519</b>	<b>\$ 3,519</b>	<b>\$ 14,076</b>	<b>\$ 14,077</b>	100%
<i>Staff Salaries</i>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>1,828</b>	<b>1,642</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>8,141</b>	<b>6,871</b>	118%
<i>Payroll Taxes</i>	<b>410</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>1,628</b>	93%
<i>Employee Benefits</i>	<b>876</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>3,413</b>	<b>3,542</b>	96%
<i>Audit &amp; Accounting</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>335</b>	88%
<i>Utilities and Association Dues</i>	<b>153</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>597</b>	85%
<i>Bonding and Insurance</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>458</b>	104%
<i>Office Telephone</i>	<b>101</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>317</b>	106%
<i>Office Equipment</i>	<b>800</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>1,792</b>	70%
<i>Administrative Travel &amp; Expenses</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>981</b>	32%
<i>Office Expenses</i>	<b>379</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>852</b>	165%
Postage	97	-	-	-	97	150	65%
Legal Publication	14	-	11	-	26	30	86%
<i>Board of Directors' Expenses</i>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>535</b>	24%
<i>Meeting Expenses</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>156</b>	39%
Election Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Board of Directors' Mileage</i>	<b>-</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>98</b>	41%
Reservoir Insurance	-	563	-	-	563	563	100%
Dam Operations and Maintenance	-	-	66	-	66	200	33%
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,027</b>	<b>\$ 8,950</b>	<b>\$ 7,283</b>	<b>\$ 8,444</b>	<b>\$ 32,704</b>	<b>\$ 33,182</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Non-operating Expenses</b>							
Water Supply Acquisition	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Non-operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 8,027</b>	<b>\$ 8,950</b>	<b>\$ 7,283</b>	<b>\$ 8,444</b>	<b>\$ 32,704</b>	<b>\$ 33,182</b>	<b>99%</b>
Revenue Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 240,178	\$ (5,258)	\$ 28,382	\$ (8,422)	\$ 254,880	\$ 851	

NOTE: Line items in *bold and italics* are those line items to which the UGRWAE contributes at a rate of 4.46%.

**RESOLUTION 2022-1**

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING LOCATION TO POST NOTICES**

WHEREAS, Local Public Bodies are required by Subsection 24-6-402(2)(c), C.R.S., to designate annually their first regular meeting of each calendar year, the place at which notice will be posted at least 24 hours prior to each meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE AS FOLLOWS:

Notices of meetings of the Upper Gunnison River Water Activity Enterprise Board required pursuant to Section 24-6-401, et seq., C.R.S., shall be posted within the boundaries of the Enterprise at least 24 hours prior to each meeting at the following location:

The Office of the Enterprise, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B, Gunnison, Colorado 81230.

ADOPTED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

---

Michelle Pierce, President

---

John Perusek, Secretary

# Upper Gunnison River Water Activity Enterprise Expenses for Approval

1/16/2022

Name	Account	Amount
Sonja R. Chavez	MLR Operations	\$ 33.60
Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder	Office Expenses	13.00
Crested Butte News	Legal Publication	11.21
Sonja R. Chavez	MLR Operations	32.48
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	3rd Quarter 2021 Cost Share	7,193.00
Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder	Office Expenses	26.00
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	4th Quarter 2021 Cost Share	8,418.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES FOR APPROVAL</b>		<b>\$ 15,727.29</b>

# **WAE AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Meridian Lake Reservoir Update**



# **WAE AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Adoption of 2022 WAE Budget**

**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE**  
**BUDGET January 1 - December 31, 2022**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>				
1	\$ 42,167	\$ -	\$ 252,934	\$ -
2	31,291	33,183	34,603	34,290
3	287	850	47	47
4	-	-	-	-
5	<b>\$ 73,746</b>	<b>\$ 34,033</b>	<b>\$ 287,584</b>	<b>\$ 34,337</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Operating Expenses				
6	<b>\$ 13,509</b>	<b>\$ 14,077</b>	<b>\$ 14,076</b>	<b>\$ 15,119</b>
7	<b>5,490</b>	<b>6,871</b>	<b>8,141</b>	<b>7,320</b>
8	<b>1,373</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>1,744</b>
9	<b>2,813</b>	<b>3,542</b>	<b>3,413</b>	<b>3,558</b>
10	<b>257</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>335</b>
11	<b>617</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>692</b>
12	<b>463</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>535</b>
13	<b>114</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>317</b>
14	<b>1,657</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>959</b>
15	<b>270</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>847</b>
16	<b>1,118</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>1,048</b>
17		150	97	100
18	53	30	26	30
19	<b>235</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>669</b>
20	<b>44</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>156</b>
21	-	-	-	-
22	<b>28</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>98</b>
23	563	563	563	563
24	-	-	-	-
25	105	200	66	200
26	<b>\$ 28,709</b>	<b>\$ 33,182</b>	<b>\$ 32,705</b>	<b>\$ 34,290</b>
Non-operating Expenses				
27	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
28	-	-	-	-
29	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
30	<b>\$ 28,709</b>	<b>\$ 33,182</b>	<b>\$ 32,705</b>	<b>\$ 34,290</b>
31	<b>\$ 45,036</b>	<b>\$ 851</b>	<b>\$ 254,879</b>	<b>\$ 47</b>
32	\$ 4,487	\$ 4,652	\$ 4,652	\$ 4,822
(lines in bold & italics are cost-shared items)				
33				640
34				\$ 53.58
Assessment per sold base unit (640) for operating expenses				
35				\$ 4.27
Assessment per total base unit (976) for capital reserve				
36				\$ 57.85
Total Annual Assessment per Base Unit				

**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE  
BUDGET January 1 - December 31, 2022**

We, the undersigned officers of the Board of Directors of the WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of the 2021 Water Activity Enterprise Budget for said District as adopted by the Board of Directors on January 24, 2022

---

Michelle Pierce, President

ATTEST:

---

John Perusek, Secretary

# **WAE AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Citizen Comments**

# **WAE AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Miscellaneous Matters**

# **WAE AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Summary of Meeting Action Items**

# **WAE AGENDA ITEM 9**

## **Adjournment**