



Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS **AGENDA - REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, September 25, 2023

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZErceompqDwtGNJYm6rQ90taM1oyDISgFEwl>

MISSION STATEMENT

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

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 5:30 p.m. | 1. Call to Order |
| 5:32 p.m. | 2. Agenda Approval |
| 5:35 p.m. | 3. Consent Agenda Items: Any of the following items may be removed for discussion from the consent agenda at the request of any Board member or citizen. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of August 28, 2023 Minutes• Monthly Budget Summary• Consideration of Expenses<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ August 2023 Expenses○ Expenses incurred in July 2023 but paid after the July 2023 Board Meeting |
| 5:40 p.m. | 4. Presentation on Overview of 2023 Water Year
David Gochis, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research |
| 6:00 p.m. | 5. BREAK |
| 6:20 p.m. | 6. Amended Budget for 2023 |

- 6:30 p.m. 7. 2024 Budget Work Session**
- 7:00 p.m. 8. Basin Water Supply Update**
- 7:10 p.m. 9. General Manager, Staff and Committee Updates**
- Treasurer’s Report
 - General Manager’s Update
 - Unit A Renovation
 - 2024 Medical Insurance Rates
 - Saguache Mill Levy Discussion
 - 2024 Water Quality/Quantity Program Cost
 - UGRWCD Drought Contingency Planning
 - State Drought Task Force September 14 Meeting
 - Water Budget & Irrigation Return Flow Study
 - Source Water Protection Planning Town of Crested Butte
 - Watershed Management Planning Committee Update
 - Wet Meadows Program Update
 - Education & Outreach Committee Update
 - Taylor Local User’s Group Update
 - September 8, 2023 Meeting Summary
 - Scientific Endeavors
 - Gunnison Basin Roundtable
- 8:00 p.m. 10. Miscellaneous Matters**
- Current Gunnison River Spreadsheet
 - Interest in CRWUA Conference In Las Vegas – Dec 12-15, 2023
- 8:05 p.m. 11. Citizens Comments**
- 8:07 p.m. 12. Future Meetings**
- 8:10 p.m. 13. Summary of Meeting Action Items**
- 8:15 p.m. 14. 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 Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors
August 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) conducted a regular meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the District office, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B, Gunnison, CO, 81230 and via Zoom video/teleconferencing.

Board members present: Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania, Bill Nesbitt, John Perusek, Mike Rogers and Andy Spann.

Board members absent: Michelle Pierce and Don Sabrowski

Others present:

Savannah Adkins, BLM – Wet Meadows Program

Steve Anders, USGS (via Zoom)

Bella Biondini, Gunnison County Times

Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager

Kathleen Curry, CRWCD Representative for Gunnison County

Cheryl Cwelich, Water Resource Specialist I

Hannah Cranor Kersting, CSU Extension Office and Gunnison Stockgrowers Association

Jesse Kruthaupt, Trout Unlimited

Grace Lindell, UGRWCD Wet Meadows Program

Andrew Lockman, Citizen, CB South

John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel

Luke Mecklenburg, Colorado Attorney General's Office (via Zoom)

Alana Nichols, UGRWCD Fellow (via Zoom)

Amy Ostdiek, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist II/Office Manager

Bob Robbins, Robbins Ranch (via Zoom)

Tommy Rozman, Division of Natural Resources

Liz Smith, Gunnison Board of County Commissioners

Jill Steele, Citizen (via Zoom)

Bill Trampe, Trampe Ranch

Sue Uerling, UGRWCD Admin. Asst/Communications Support Specialist

Cory Williams, USGS
Ari Yamaguchi, UGRWCD Wet Meadows Program Intern
Katie Young, BLM Wet Meadows Program Intern

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Agenda Approval**

Director Joellen Fonken moved and Director Rebie Hazard seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried.

3. **Consent Agenda Items**

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Mike Rogers seconded approval of the consent agenda items. The motion carried.

4. **Approval of 2023 Financial Audit**

Vice President Stacy McPhail referred to the copy of the 2022 Financial Audit in the Board packet and asked if there were any questions. None were raised.

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Andy Spann seconded the approval of the 2023 Financial Audit as provided in the Board packet. The motion carried.

5. **DINNER BREAK and Conversation with Becky Mitchell, State of Colorado's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission**

Vice President Stacy McPhail introduced Becky Mitchell, the state of Colorado's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission and Amy Ostdiek, Chief of the Interstate, Federal, and Water Information Section at the Colorado Water Conservation Board. After spending the past six years as the director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Becky explained that with her recent appointment as Colorado's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission, she is hoping to meet with constituents from all parts of the state to hear their stories firsthand and be able to share these stories with the commission. She said she really appreciated Sonja and John's efforts to allow her and Amy to come at the last minute to address the Board. She also commended John McClow for his advising her and his knowledge of the history and legal issues of the compact.

Becky explained that she will be championing the state of Colorado's interests in protecting the Colorado River under the following "irrefutable truths" which she is passionate about:

- (1) Acknowledging that climate change is real. Becky said everyone must anticipate a drier and more variable hydrologic future and must have the flexibility to be able to adapt quickly to changing conditions. She said here in the Upper Gunnison Watershed, our water users live on the front lines of climate change and for the last 20-plus years they regularly have experienced significant cuts to their water supplies.
- (2) Accepting that water users in the Lower Basin are not more important than water users in the Upper Basin. The Upper and Lower Basins have equal apportionments to the river in perpetuity, established by the 1922 Colorado River Compact, and these apportionments need to be enforced, she said. When Director Nesbitt asked if this was also true for Front Range water users, Becky replied that this “truth” of “no one is more important than anyone else” goes for all water users, even within the state. She noted that it is imperative for everyone in the state to rally together to promote and protect our state’s rights. “We must present a united front for Colorado,” she said.
- (3) Preventing overuse in the Lower Basin. Becky said water use in the Lower Basin cannot continue to exceed available supplies and that operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead must adapt to better respond to actual hydrology at any given time. Becky said it is so fortunate that the west experienced a wet winter, or the conversations would be very different right now. She noted that the Lower Basin has used over nine-million-acre feet of water while the Upper Basin has used just three- to four-million-acre feet and that this simply cannot continue and is unacceptable. She also believes the Lower Basin needs to account for all depletions, including evaporation and transit losses. Becky noted that in late summer 2021 when the Bureau of Reclamation gave just an eight-day notice of their intent to release water from Blue Mesa Reservoir in an attempt to shore up Lake Powell and Lake Mead, this was a problem on several levels. She said that the fact that the releases were scheduled just before the Labor Day weekend had a serious impact on the recreational economy of the Gunnison valley. In addition, she noted that there was no means of ensuring that the water released would actually reach Lake Powell or Lake Mead and that there was no concern for what this would mean for the fishery or other environmental impacts in this area. She said it was “just wrong” for the releases to be required to help the Lower Basin states continue to overuse water, especially when it simply wasn’t available due to drought conditions. She said she would fight any such releases in the future. The Lower Basin’s overuse poses risks to the entire Colorado River Basin according to Becky.
- (4) Defending against attempts at compact curtailment in the Upper Basin states. Becky said since the Upper Basin states are in full compliance with the 1922 Colorado River Compact, Upper Basin water use should not be curtailed and she will fight against any attempt to do so.
- (5) Operating Lake Powell and Lake Mead to respond to actual hydrology and to protect storage. Becky noted that the interim guidelines that were developed to manage releases from Lake Powell are not scientifically based on hydrology. This has led to depleted storage and has driven both Lake Powell and lake Mead into crisis mode. She said future releases from Lake Powell should be determined by actual hydrology and protecting storage rather than by conditions at Lake Mead or to meet the demands of Lower Basin’s water users when they are already far exceeding their allocation.
- (6) Preserving federal reserved water rights for Tribal Nations. Becky noted that when she said

before that no one is more important than anyone else, she was including the Tribal Nations in this statement. She said that they have federally-guaranteed water rights they are entitled to use and that until recently, Tribal Nations were not even included in the discussions. Becky said she is proud of the progress she has seen in her dealings with the Ute Mountain and Southern Ute tribes. She reported, however, that they are not using anywhere near their apportionment and that she will fight for all Tribal Nations to receive the water rights they are entitled to and that the Lower Basin cannot continue to depend on Tribes' undeveloped federal reserved water rights to meet other needs outside of the tribes.

Although, she did not have the time to address the last two points, Becky also believes the eight truths include:

- (7) Complying with federal environmental law, and
- (8) Advancing coordination between the United States and Mexico.

Area rancher Bill Trampe said he has grave concerns for the future of ag producers in the Gunnison basin when he drives down the road and sees how many properties have been sold to wealthy individuals from outside the area where these properties are covered with trees and greenery. He noted that many of them will sell their water rights to have fish in the river and do not understand the implications this has on the ag producers downstream. He feels ag producers, especially in rural areas at our elevation, are very vulnerable in these Colorado River negotiations and that they "have a target on their back." There was also agreement between those present that these problems are not going to be mitigated just by throwing federal dollars at them. Becky strongly agreed and said she would "step out loudly if she sees a misuse of funds." She said just throwing federal money into the pot creates a "shell game of sorts" where the accounting of these funds is hidden under bureaucratic "shells", and she will not be part of any shady accounting and will speak out against this.

Becky's bottom line was that we all must "learn to live within the means of the river." In the interest of time, Becky concluded her presentation but said that she would like to come back to a future Board meeting for further input from the Board and water users in the Upper Gunnison River Basin.

6. 2024 Budget

Strategic Planning: General Manager Sonja Chavez reviewed staff's 2024 Strategic Goals and went line by line through the 2024 Draft Budget spreadsheet, pointing out any figures that were missing at this point and any major changes from the 2023 budget. The biggest differences still pending are the: (A) Property Tax Income anticipated for 2024 since as of the meeting time, the District had not received property valuations from Saguache County; (B) Wet Meadows income as staff is still tallying 2023 income and projecting income for 2024; (C) Unspent funds from 2023 to rollover to 2024 are not finalized yet; (D) the District is still waiting for Chris Klein's estimate for the renovations to Suite A; and (E) the CPA firm is still determining all payroll expenses for 2023 to project the figures needed for 2024.

There was some discussion about the amount allocated for the District Grant program for 2024 and the amount of 2023 rollover of unused funds. It was noted that several outside grant sources are now only awarding grants that will benefit multiple users or multi-resource concerns therefore, perhaps the dollar amount allocated for 2024, currently \$200,000, should be increased to \$250,000 for a total amount of \$300,00 available in 2024? Sonja noted that this would be a discussion for staff and the Finance Committee before the next meeting.

Preliminary Estimate of Assessors' Valuations – As of the meeting time, only the Assessors' Valuations from Gunnison County and Hinsdale County had been received. Both were included in the Board packet.

7. **Basin Water Supply Update**

In the interest of time, Vice President Stacy McPhail encouraged the Board to review the Basin Water Supply update included in the board packet and reach out to Water Resource Specialist Beverly Richards with any questions.

8. **General Manager's, Committee and Staff Reports**

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Bill Nesbitt reported that at today's Federal Reserve meeting, they decided there would be no interest rate increases in September, but there might be more coming down the road, possibly in July 2024. He does have concerns that the US is producing and selling less goods and that the US debt is now \$327 trillion. He noted that it is also concerning that there are now five foreclosures in Gunnison County. On a more positive note, he reported that our budget is now double what it was when he first came on the Board and the District's investments are secure.

General Manager's Memorandum:

Employee Handbook: Senior staff have made a number of additions and revisions to the employee handbook (Exhibit B in the packet). General Manager Sonja Chavez noted that changes had been reviewed and discussed at previous meetings and asked if there were any questions. None were raised.

Director Julie Nania moved and Director Rosemary Carroll seconded the approval of additions and revisions to the Employee Handbook as noted in Exhibit B in the Board packet. The motion carried.

Spencer Avenue Condominium Building Update: General Manager Chavez reported that the District has finally found a contractor interested in working on the renovation of Unit A. Chris Klein Construction is working on an estimate to submit to the District, which will be added to the 2024 Budget projections. Chris said the work will likely commence February of 2024 and take 45-60 days. The upstairs units are being repainted and the roof replacement is on-going. Sonja and General Counsel John McClow indicated that a request for bids had been sent to 14 companies with only one actual bid

submitted. Phone calls were also made to numerous companies to ask about their interest. Given that only one bid had been received and they could get no other bids, staff was going to move forward with Chris Klein. Staff asked if there were any concerns. No concerns were raised. Staff is anticipating a draft cost estimate soon.

Regarding Informal Discussion w/Saguache County Commissioners: The Saguache Board of County Commissioners (SBOCC) sent an email request to a number of entities including UGRWCD for an informal discussion on September 12 at 6pm about the possibility of lowering mill levies and what if any assistance can be given to taxpayers in Saguache County due to increasing property values. General Manager Chavez noted that she has put the meeting on her calendar to listen in. It was noted that Saguache County property tax income to the District is nominal and staff will attend the meeting, will listen only, and will report back to the board.

Water Quality Update: On August 14, 2023, the State of Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) held informational and rulemaking hearings in Denver, Colorado. General Manager Chavez referred to her memo in the packet and noted that the District will host the WQCC for their Annual Planning Retreat on September 10th and 11th. There is a half day of planning items on the agenda on both mornings of the 10th and 11th and an educational boat tour and presentation on Blue Mesa Reservoir (BMR) on the afternoon of the 10th for division and commission staff by the National Park Service and the United States Geological Survey. The Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) study being conducted on Blue Mesa Reservoir (BMR) will be the focus of conversation given the most recent Lakes Nutrient Rulemaking Hearing.

Drought Contingency Planning Update: General Manager Chavez reported that the Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) Task Force (TF) will be meeting on September 8th for their kick-off meeting. The purpose of the TF is to oversee and design the DCP scope of work, work closely with consultants, be a liaison to the broader community and ensure cross-collaboration, and engage members of the community.

Discussion with USGS on the Upper Gunnison Basin Water Budget & Irrigation Return Flow Study

Background: UGRWCD water users were asked about their interest in participating in a high elevation grass hay demand management pilot study by the Colorado River District (CRD) at our February 2023 board meeting. Water users expressed concern over the long-term and multi-year impacts to production and cattle operations and impacts to their neighbors and downstream water users. CRD's goal was to try get data and information demonstrating that could support the Western Slope's position that demand management couldn't be accomplished in such a flood dominated system without significant impacts. UGRWCD met with the Gunnison County Stockgrowers in March of 2023 and proposed an alternative study that could accomplish the same goals but without having to ask water users to intentionally fallow. Water Users in the Upper Gunnison basin are all too familiar with demand management after having to

manage water users through years of on-going drought. Therefore, UGRWCD suggested that a study be commissioned over the next 5-10 years that could gather necessary data and develop a model that would capture impacts to groundwater and surface water stream flow in a flood dominated system in dry, average and wet years. The study would hopefully capture what happens naturally in response to reduced water use during drought years and under water rights administration. The USGS has requested that the UGRWCD create a list of specific topics or focused questions related to the proposed Upper Gunnison Basin Water Budget and Irrigation Return Flow Study.

Cory Williams, USGS's Western Colorado Studies Section Chief, and Steve Anders, USGS's Supervisory Hydrologic Technician attended the meeting via Zoom to get input from the Board. There was discussion about some level of confidentiality requested by ag producers potentially participating in the studies. Sonja indicated that preliminary discussion with Gunnison County Stockgrowers indicated they understood that measurement rules were coming and that diversion records were already public knowledge. There was also discussion about how the questions would need to be worded carefully so that there are no foregone conclusions alluded to under the study. There was also discussion about the modeling process, possible study basins, and what sort of scientific processes and data would be used to develop the model, as well as the timing of the data collection and modeling. There was also discussion about starting with one watershed versus doing multiple watersheds. Director Rosemary Carroll offered to share the modeling that she had completed with her group for the East River and said the USGS could cull parts of the model that might be helpful to them. Several Board members suggested starting along the Tomichi Creek since there are so many irrigation diversions in that area. Everyone agreed that it would be important to continue to study the effects of what is also occurring downstream any upstream study areas. Cory and Steve pointed out that the initial study will likely take four to five years and that the USGS is planning on helping fund part of the work.

Wet Meadows Program Update – Vice President McPhail referred to the Wet Meadows memorandum in the packet and asked Cheryl Cwelich if she had anything to add. Cheryl said they are winding down their season, which has been super busy with the installation of 70 structures over five project areas. Director Rebie Hazard said she appreciated that so many of the Wet Meadow staff attended the meeting and were present for Becky Mitchell's discussion.

Education and Outreach Update for June 2023 – The committee will meet on Thursday, August 31 at 1 p.m. to discuss the strategic plan and budgeting for 2024.

Taylor Local Users Group – Vice President McPhail noted that the August 8th TLUG minutes were included in the packet. The next meeting is scheduled for September 8 at noon.

Scientific Endeavors - Director Rosemary Carroll offered to hold her update until the next Board meeting.

Gunnison River Festival (GRF) – Executive Director Cheryl Cwelich reported there were about 30 boats that participated in the Sunni Gunni Costume Float and that the costumes were hilarious. She said there were about 250-300 people who came to the activities at the Whitewater Park. Cheryl said they really tried to appeal to the younger crowd about using PFD's and choosing safe vessels to float the rivers. Cheryl reported the GRF Board will be meeting in September to discuss thoughts around and potential recommended changes for the 2024 festival.

Strategic Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) – Water Resources Fellow, Alana Nichols, attended the August meeting while Sonja was at the Colorado Water Congress conference and will give an update at the next board meeting.

9. Miscellaneous Matters

Colorado Water Congress Summer Conference Update – Due to the late hour of the meeting, this discussion was tabled.

Staff is working with the Colorado River District to obtain clarification around the CRWCD's Board position on parameters around funding on-farm improvement projects.

Staff is working with the City of Gunnison to help move a Community Funding Partnership application for funding forward to the County for a letter of support.

10. Citizens Comments

Vice President Stacy McPhail asked if any of the citizens in attendance had any comments. Luke Mecklenburg from the Colorado State Attorney's office said he was glad to attend.

11. Future Meetings – Vice President McPhail referred to the schedule included in the Board packet.

12. Summary of Meeting Action Items

No items were specifically mentioned, but staff and the Board will continue to develop the 2024 budget.

13. Adjournment

Board Vice President Stacy McPhail adjourned the regular Board meeting on August 28, 2023, at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Perusek, Secretary

Stacy McPhail, Vice President

DRAFT

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Monthly Budget Summary 2023

	Aug 23	YTD 2023	2023 Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Asp Water Sales	851.08	23,500.27	20,920.00	112.33%
Cloud Seeding Income	0.00	140,750.00	140,750.00	100.0%
Interest Income	6,319.38	56,249.64	20,000.00	281.25%
Property Tax Income				
Property Tax Current	44,940.50	1,491,543.97		
Specific Ownship	7,796.10	60,921.37		
Delinquent Tax & Interest	1,865.20	729.95		
Grant Income - Property Taxes	0.00	554.83		
Property Tax Income - Other	0.00	0.00	1,598,974.00	
Total Property Tax Income	54,601.80	1,553,750.12	1,598,974.00	97.17%
Reimbursed Exp Income				
GRF Reimbursed Income	0.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.0%
LSC Reimbursed Income	0.00	0.00		
Misc Income	0.00	35,042.42		
UGRAWE Reimbursed Inc	0.00	9,458.86		
Reimbursed Exp Income - Other	0.00	0.00		
Total Reimbursed Exp Income	0.00	44,501.28	35,000.00	127.15%
Taylor-CWRPDA Hydro Income	0.00	0.00		
Unspent Funds from Previous Yr	0.00	0.00		
Watershed Mgmt Income				
CWCB 2023-2404 Black Mesa Gen.	0.00	0.00		
BOR DCP 2023-24 \$140,480	0.00	0.00		
Blue Mesa HABs Study	0.00	0.00		
CWCB WMP (TBD) Grant Income	0.00	0.00		
CRWCD CFP2021-15 Grant Inc	0.00	0.00		
CWCB 2019-2891 \$150,000	0.00	0.00		
CWCB 2020-2113 \$31,507	0.00	0.00		
CWCB 2022-2085 \$180,000	16,161.60	47,489.70		
NPS 2021-4821 Grant Inc	0.00	0.00		
TU Restore Grant Inc	0.00	0.00		
Watershed Restore Program Inc	0.00	0.00		
WMP CWCB PO 2023-3317	0.00	17,356.75		
Watershed Mgmt Income - Other	242,170.88	242,170.88	435,018.00	55.67%
Total Watershed Mgmt Income	258,332.48	307,017.33	435,018.00	70.58%
Wet Meadows Income				
USFS SPA 2018 Grant	0.00	54,254.73		
BLM L17AC00255	0.00	113,222.31		
BLM L19AC00207 Silt	0.00	43,186.64		
NFWF Landscape	0.00	0.00		
NFWF Phase II Grant Income	0.00	0.00		
NRCS Grant Income	0.00	0.00		
Wet Meadows BLM Grant Inc	0.00	0.00		
WM USFS PA 18 Inc	0.00	0.00		
Wet Meadows Income - Other	0.00	103,950.00	274,166.00	37.92%
Total Wet Meadows Income	0.00	314,613.68	274,166.00	114.75%
WQ Monitoring Inc	0.00	38,869.00	38,869.00	100.0%
Water Supply Income				
CWCB NCAR Water Supply2023-2377	-477.99	6,445.71		
CWCB PO 2023-3158	0.00	36,031.07		
Water Supply Income - Other	0.00	0.00		
Total Water Supply Income	-477.99	42,476.78		
Additional Contribution Reserve	0.00	0.00	283,636.00	0.0%
Total Income	319,626.75	2,521,728.10	2,847,333.00	88.57%

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Monthly Budget Summary 2023

Cost of Goods Sold				
Cloud Seeding COST	39.94	113,858.13	189,060.00	60.22%
COST Grants	0.00	18,150.00		
Cost of Goods Sold	0.00	0.00		
NPS PO 2021-4821 COST	0.00	0.00		
UGR&D CRWCD CFP2021-15 COST	0.00	0.00		
Watershed COST				
CRWD CFP Grant - HAB's	0.00	9,750.00		
2023 GOCO Planning COST	0.00	20,000.00		
CWCB 2020-2113	0.00	2,104.00		
BOR DCP 2023-24 COST	9,706.60	10,245.60		
CWCB WMP 2023-3317	0.00	32,703.75		
2021-15 UG Restoration COST	0.00	0.00		
CWCB 2022-2085 (Restore) COST	0.00	20,901.50		
CWCB 2019-2891 COST	0.00	0.00		
CWCB PO 2019 2891 COST	0.00	0.00		
CWCB WtrShed Restore Grant COST	0.00	0.00		
TU Restore Grant COST	0.00	0.00		
UGR&D CRWCD CFP2022 COST	0.00	6,158.00		
CWCB GBRT-PEPO 2023-2489	2,183.00	8,943.34		
Watershed COST - Other	0.00	37,297.80	482,920.00	7.72%
Total Watershed COST	11,889.60	148,103.99	482,920.00	30.67%
Wet Meadows COST				
CAWA	2,364.19	8,486.82		
FWS Sagebrush Ecosystem COST	2,334.12	40,130.38		
BLM Coop L17AC00255 COST	0.00	728.00		
BLM L19AC00207 COST	0.00	0.00		
CPW HPP COST	0.00	0.00		
CPW Wetlands Grant COST	0.00	0.00		
NFWF Phase II COST	0.00	0.00		
NRCS Grant Exp COST	0.00	0.00		
USFS 22-PA-11020400-050	0.00	1,350.68		
USFS PA-2 17-PA COST	0.00	0.00		
USFS SPA 2018 COST	0.00	0.00		
2022 GOCO Planning COST	1,047.94	17,769.03		
Wet Meadows COST - Other	10,628.11	21,327.63	294,166.00	7.25%
Total Wet Meadows COST	16,374.36	89,792.54	294,166.00	30.52%
WQ Monitoring COST				
WQ Monitoring USGS JFA 2023	0.00	37,117.00		
WQ Monitoring COST - Other	0.00	77,981.00	157,930.00	49.38%
Total WQ Monitoring COST	0.00	115,098.00	157,930.00	72.88%
Water Supply COST				
CWCB/ NCAR #2023-2377 \$14,998	0.00	7,555.57		
CWCB PO 2023-3158	4,704.94	39,611.01		
Water Supply COST - Other	0.00	0.00		
Total Water Supply COST	4,704.94	47,166.58		
Total COGS	33,008.84	532,169.24	1,124,076.00	47.34%

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Monthly Budget Summary 2023

Gross Profit	286,617.91	1,989,558.86	1,723,257.00	115.45%
Expense				
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	0.00		
1 Op X				
Donation-Endangered Fish	0.00	0.00		
Admin.Travel & Exp.	1,496.40	18,784.42	35,000.00	53.67%
Accounting & Professional Fees	3,000.00	31,025.00		
Audit Expense	0.00	5,800.00	10,000.00	58.0%
Bad Debts	0.00	0.00		
Bank Service Charges	1.92	3,577.50		
BOD Expenses	1,614.68	7,432.31	15,000.00	49.55%
BOD Mileage	0.00	2,935.49	2,200.00	133.43%
BOD Mtg Fees	0.00	9,500.00	13,360.00	71.11%
Bonding and Insurance	0.00	14,674.00	12,003.00	122.25%
Building Rep/Maint	0.00	7,507.84	10,000.00	75.08%
Computer Exp				
Computer Asset Purchase	0.00	4,467.26		
Computer Repairs	401.49	4,076.43		
Computer Software	265.00	8,735.30		
Internet	249.12	6,907.62		
Computer Exp - Other	0.00	5,022.47	22,850.00	21.98%
Total Computer Exp	915.61	29,209.08	22,850.00	127.83%
Copier Expenses	242.89	2,732.17	5,000.00	54.64%
County Treasurers' Fees	1,461.65	45,391.21	47,969.00	94.63%
Donation RMBL Weather	0.00	0.00		
Donation Selenium Program	0.00	0.00		
Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	53.15	11,736.77	15,000.00	78.25%
Election Expenses	0.00	0.00		
Legal Publication	317.71	4,921.85	6,000.00	82.03%
Manager's Discretionary	464.25	17,820.36	25,000.00	71.28%
Meeting Expenses	207.00	2,541.21	4,000.00	63.53%
Office Equipment Exp	0.00	8,339.11	21,500.00	38.79%
Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	255.10	6,029.36	21,250.00	28.37%
Payroll Exp				
CRA Retirement Plan	3,761.47	29,948.44		
Medical Insurance	3,645.60	28,789.00		
Payroll Taxes	4,047.57	29,722.40		
Salaries - Admin	30,300.75	243,006.00		
Salaries - Staff	21,758.14	134,683.41		
Staff Development	100.59	2,230.29		
Work Comp Ins	557.00	5,666.00		
Payroll Penalties	0.00	0.00		
Payroll Exp - Other	637.50	1,087.50	762,354.00	0.14%
Total Payroll Exp	64,808.62	475,133.04	762,354.00	62.32%
Postage	0.00	441.00	1,500.00	29.4%
Public Outreach				
4-H Sponsorships	0.00	500.00		
Donation GRF	0.00	0.00		
Internship	0.00	0.00		
Mini-Grants	0.00	500.00		
Public Ed./Advertising	1,340.90	17,172.84		
Social Media	0.00	0.00		
Website Updates	0.00	774.00		
Youth Conservation Corps	0.00	0.00		
Public Outreach - Other	1,551.07	15,678.11	61,680.00	25.42%
Total Public Outreach	2,891.97	34,624.95	61,680.00	56.14%

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Monthly Budget Summary 2023

RICD Exp	0.00	0.00		
Telephone	593.52	5,872.51	7,110.00	82.6%
Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	505.03	16,438.31	15,516.00	105.94%
Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Highl	61.49	668.85	4,525.00	14.78%
Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Tacom	206.21	630.00		
1 Op X - Other	0.00	0.00		
Total 1 Op X	79,097.20	763,766.34	1,118,817.00	68.27%
2 Non-Op X				
Lake Fork Conservancy	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	100.0%
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
City of Gunnison Cleanup	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
Asp Subordination Report	0.00	5,040.00	22,040.00	22.87%
Aspinall Contract Costs	0.00	18,521.09		
Cloud Seeding	121.81	121.81		
Consulting/Engineering	0.00	15,444.19	15,000.00	102.96%
Contribution to Reserve Fund	0.00	0.00		
Donation Dust on Snowpack	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	100.0%
Drought Contingency Cont	0.00	0.00	44,000.00	0.0%
Endanger Fish Recovery Program	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.0%
Home Loan Program Cont	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.0%
Legal Fees/Projects	0.00	0.00		
LSC Expenses	0.00	13,464.00	13,464.00	100.0%
RMBL (Basinwide Planning X)	0.00	0.00		
Regional Water Supply Imp. Exp.	0.00	0.00		
Grant Program	4,300.00	167,160.65	300,000.00	55.72%
Spencer Ave Res Exp	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
Taylor Park Projects Exp	0.00	7,436.00	7,436.00	100.0%
Taylor River Modeling Exp	703.26	-4,544.87	40,000.00	-11.36%
Watershed Mgmt X	54.68	58,485.88		
Wet Meadow X	0.00	14,208.41		
WQ Monitoring	0.00	10,000.00		
2 Non-Op X - Other	0.00	0.00		
Total 2 Non-Op X	5,179.75	318,837.16	580,440.00	54.93%
Capital Outlay Expense	0.00	714,876.83		
Total Expense	84,276.95	1,797,480.33	1,699,257.00	105.78%
Net Ordinary Income	202,340.96	192,078.53	24,000.00	800.33%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income	0.00	0.00		
Other Expense				
Contingency	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	
Depreciation Expenses	0.00	0.00		
Total Other Expense	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	-24,000.00	
Net Income	202,340.96	192,078.53	0.00	

UGRWCD	Instrument	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
Account Name: LPL Bonds	Type	8/31/2023	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond 27 CUSIP 91282CDR9 Treasury Note	BOND					Sold 4/28/23. Value \$389,865.90
LPL Bond 17 (FHLB) CUSIP 91282CDH1 Treasury Note	BOND	194,301.05	204,335.35	0.790%	11/15/2024	
LPL 31 Fed. Home Loan Banks BOND CUSIP 3130 AT4D6	BOND	246,196.00	250,000.00	3.430%	6/15/2024	
LPL 28 Freddie Mac CUSIP 3134 GXQP2	BOND	193,029.80	200,000.00	3.150%	4/28/2025	7/28/2022
LPL Bond 20 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130 AJLA 5	BOND	510,142.60	550,000.00	0.810%	5/19/2025	
LPL Bond 21 (Fed Farm) CUSIP 3133 EL3P7	BOND	315,931.33	345,000.00	0.580%	8/12/2025	8/12/2022
LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	BOND	226,143.75	250,000.00	0.970%	3/17/2026	9/17/2021
LPL Bond 24 CUSIP 3130AMDY5 Fedl Home Loan Bank	BOND	451,753.00	500,000.00	1.110%	5/20/2026	5/20/2022
LPL 26 (Fed. Home Loan Banks) CUSIP 3130 APBE4	BOND	142,900.48	160,000.00	1.120%	9/30/2026	9/30/2022
LPL 29 FHL CUSIP 3134 GXYD0	BOND					Sold 4/28/23. Value \$292,891.08
LPL BOND SUBTOTAL:		2,280,398.01	\$ 2,459,335.35	1.495%		
Account Name: LPL Certificates of Deposit						
LPL 22 Merrick Bank CD thru LPL CUSIP 59013KLR5	CD	\$ 233,522.16	\$ 249,000.00	0.370%	12/30/2024	
LPL CD 25 Sallie Mae Bank CUSIP 795451 AA1	CD	235,038.05	245,000.00	0.580%	7/22/2024	3/30/2022
LPL 30 Synchrony Bank CD CUSIP 87165 EXB8	CD	237,360.41	245,000.00	3.510%	7/29/2025	
LPL CD SUBTOTAL:		\$ 705,920.62	\$ 739,000.00	1.487%		
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	\$ 15,595.12	-	1.094%	N/A	
LPL MM SUBTOTAL:		\$ 15,595.12				

Account Name	INSTRUMENT	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Notes
	TYPE	7/31/2023	Basis	Rate	Date	
Bank of the West Checking	CHKG	\$ 224,508.09		0.01%	N/A	
Community Banks of Colo. CD 1487 0420	CD	52,233.19		0.40%	9/26/2022	*Updated on a Quarterly Basis
Community Banks of Colo. Lake City CD # 7668	CD	105,015.89		4.01%	11/20/2026	*Updated on a Quarterly Basis
10520 Gunnison Bank & Trust CD 6637	CD	213,382.69		1.90%	2/26/2025	*Updated on a Quarterly Basis
10540 Gunnison Bank & Trust MM - Spencer Ave. Res. 3589	SAVING	43,135.55		0.25%		*Updated on a Quarterly Basis
				Average		
				Mo. Yield		
10295 COLOTRUST PLUS+	COLO.	1,219,664.75		5.22%	N/A	
10290 COLOTRUST PRIME	COLO.	98,378.23		4.92%	N/A	
10200 Petty Cash	PETTY	8.00		N/A	N/A	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK & COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:		1,956,326.39				
TOTAL UGRWCD		\$ 4,958,240.14				

UGRWAE	INSTRUMENT	Balance		Interest	Maturity	
Account Name	TYPE	8/31/2023		Rate	Date	
Bank of the West Checking	CHKG	\$ 177,687.52		N/A	N/A	
COLOTRUST PLUS+	COLO.	383,601.23		5.29%	N/A	
TOTAL UGRWAE		\$ 561,288.75				

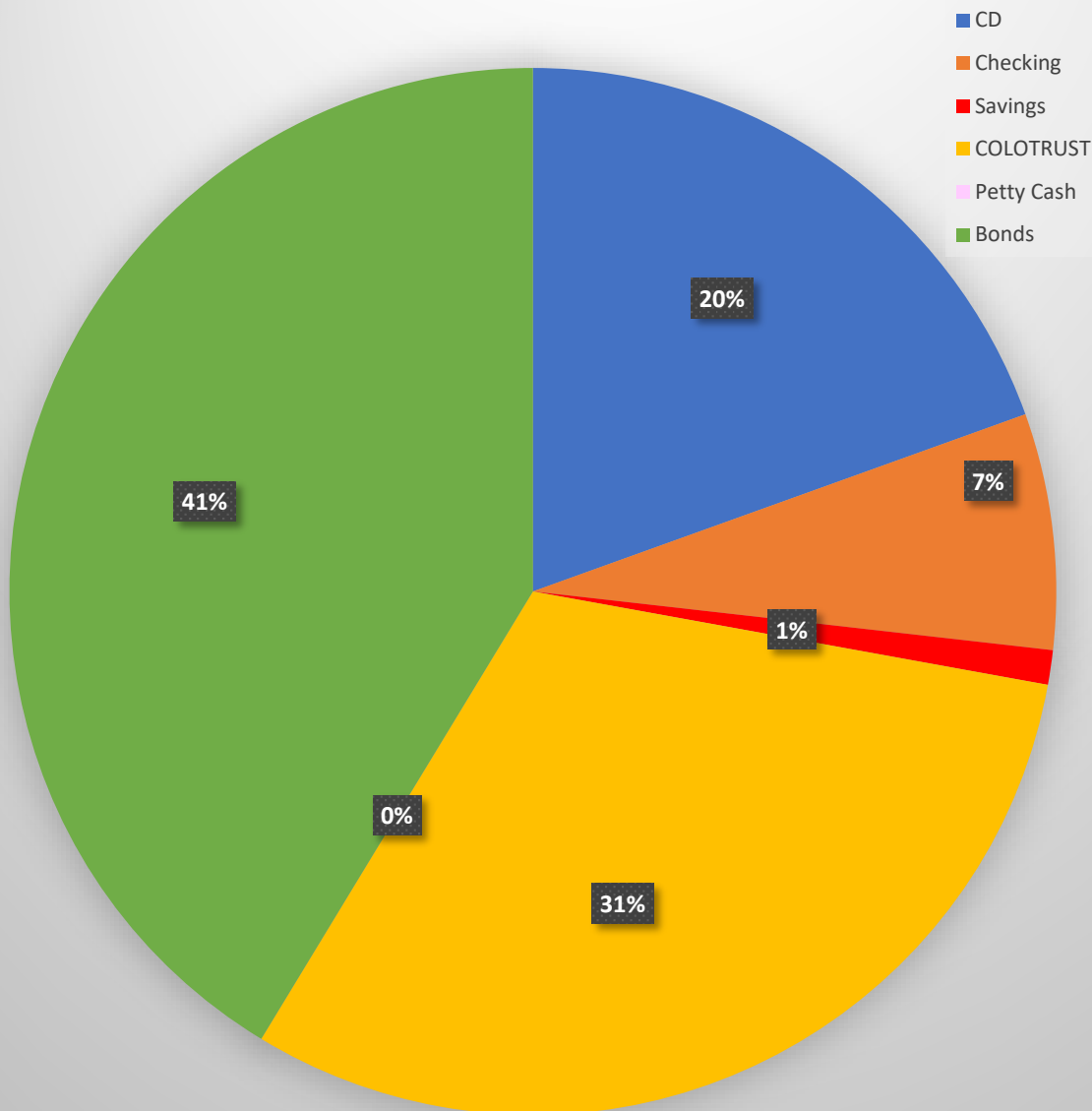
TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE	\$ 5,519,528.89
------------------------------	------------------------

Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE by Bank			Total UGRWCD & UGRWAE by Investment Type		
LPL Financial	\$ 3,001,913.75	54%	CD	20%	\$ 1,076,552.39
Bank of the West	402,195.61	7%	Checking	7%	402,195.61
Community Banks of Colo.	157,249.08	3%	Savings	1%	58,730.67
Gunnison Bank & Trust	256,518.24	5%	COLOTRUST	31%	1,701,644.21
COLOTRUST	1,701,644.21	31%	Petty Cash	0%	8.00
Petty Cash	8.00	0%	Bonds	41%	\$ 2,280,398.01
TOTAL ALL BANKS	\$ 5,519,528.89	100%	Total	100%	\$ 5,519,528.89

UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	20%	\$	1,076,552.39
Checking	7%	\$	402,195.61
Savings	1%	\$	58,730.67
COLOTRUST	31%	\$	1,701,644.21
Petty Cash	0%	\$	8.00
Bonds	41%	\$	2,280,398.01
Total	100%	\$	5,519,528.89

UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



7:42 PM
09/14/23
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
August 2023

Date	Name	Account	Amount
AmeriGas 08/31/2023	AmeriGas	Cloud Seeding	121.81
Total AmeriGas			121.81
Anthem 08/05/2023	Anthem	Medical Insurance	304.30
Total Anthem			304.30
Ari Yamaguchi 08/31/2023	Ari Yamaguchi	Wet Meadows COST	200.00
Total Ari Yamaguchi			200.00
Atmos Energy 08/31/2023	Atmos Energy	Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	48.68
Total Atmos Energy			48.68
Bank of the West 08/31/2023	Bank of the West	Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	25.00
Total Bank of the West			25.00
BIO-Logic Inc 08/31/2023	BIO-Logic Inc	FWS Sagebrush Ecosystem COST	2,334.12
08/31/2023	BIO-Logic Inc	2022 GOCO Planning COST	1,047.94
08/31/2023	BIO-Logic Inc	CAWA	2,364.19
Total BIO-Logic Inc			5,746.25
BMO Financial Group 08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	BOD Expenses	1,614.68
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	255.10

7:42 PM
09/14/23
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
August 2023

Date	Name	Account	Amount
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Manager's Discretionary	464.25
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Meeting Expenses	207.00
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Admin.Travel & Exp.	1,496.40
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Watershed Mgmt X	54.68
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Public Outreach	471.07
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Wet Meadows COST	1,318.08
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Highl	61.49
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Tacom	206.21
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	GRF Receivable	88.65
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Internet	124.56
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Computer Repairs	1.49
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Computer Software	81.00
08/31/2023	BMO Financial Group	Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	28.15
Total BMO Financial Group			6,472.81
Business Solutions Leasing			
08/31/2023	Business Solutions Leasing	Copier Expenses	242.89
Total Business Solutions Leasing			242.89
CEBT			
08/10/2023	CEBT	Medical Insurance	3,268.20
Total CEBT			3,268.20
Checkr, Inc.			
08/31/2023	Checkr, Inc.	Staff Development	100.59
Total Checkr, Inc.			100.59
City of Gunnison			
08/31/2023	City of Gunnison	Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	177.47
08/31/2023	City of Gunnison	Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	278.88

7:42 PM
09/14/23
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
August 2023

Date	Name	Account	Amount
08/31/2023	City of Gunnison	Public Outreach	750.00
Total City of Gunnison			1,206.35
08/31/2023	Creekside Angling & Environmental	Grant Program	4,300.00
Total Creekside Angling & Environmental			4,300.00
08/31/2023	Crested Butte News	Legal Publication	302.31
Total Crested Butte News			302.31
08/31/2023	Friends of Youth and Nature	CWCB GBRT-PEPO 2023-2489	1,500.00
Total Friends of Youth and Nature			1,500.00
08/31/2023	GL Computer Service, Inc.	Computer Repairs	400.00
Total GL Computer Service, Inc.			400.00
08/31/2023	Golden Eagle Trash Service	Wet Meadows COST	128.50
Total Golden Eagle Trash Service			128.50
08/31/2023	Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy	Public Outreach	250.00
Total Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy			250.00
KEJJ Radio			

7:42 PM
09/14/23
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
August 2023

Date	Name	Account	Amount
08/31/2023	KEJJ Radio	Public Ed./Advertising	125.00
Total KEJJ Radio			125.00
KVLE FM			
08/31/2023	KVLE FM	Public Ed./Advertising	125.00
Total KVLE FM			125.00
Lightspeed Voice			
08/03/2023	Lightspeed Voice	Telephone	1.72
08/31/2023	Lightspeed Voice	Telephone	265.80
08/31/2023	Lightspeed Voice	Telephone	1.72
Total Lightspeed Voice			269.24
Microsoft			
08/05/2023	Microsoft	Computer Software	184.00
Total Microsoft			184.00
Montrose Daily Press			
08/31/2023	Montrose Daily Press	CWCB GBRT-PEPO 2023-2489	564.00
Total Montrose Daily Press			564.00
Ouray County Plaindealer			
08/31/2023	Ouray County Plaindealer	CWCB GBRT-PEPO 2023-2489	119.00
Total Ouray County Plaindealer			119.00
Pat's Screen Printing			
08/31/2023	Pat's Screen Printing	Public Ed./Advertising	1,090.90
Total Pat's Screen Printing			1,090.90

7:42 PM
09/14/23
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
August 2023

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Pinnacol Assurance 08/23/2023	Pinnacol Assurance	Work Comp Ins	557.00
Total Pinnacol Assurance			557.00
RigNet Inc 08/31/2023	RigNet Inc	Cloud Seeding COST	39.94
Total RigNet Inc			39.94
Silver World Publishing 08/31/2023	Silver World Publishing	Legal Publication	15.40
08/31/2023	Silver World Publishing	Public Outreach	80.00
Total Silver World Publishing			95.40
Strategic by Nature 08/31/2023	Strategic by Nature	BOR DCP 2023-24 COST	9,706.60
Total Strategic by Nature			9,706.60
Thomas N Stoeber, CPA 08/31/2023	Thomas N Stoeber, CPA	Accounting & Professional Fees	3,000.00
Total Thomas N Stoeber, CPA			3,000.00
UnitedHealthcare 08/05/2023	UnitedHealthcare	Medical Insurance	129.10
Total UnitedHealthcare			129.10
University Corp. for Atmospheric Research 08/31/2023	University Corp. for Atmospheric Research	CWCB NCAR Water Supply2023-2...	477.99
08/31/2023	University Corp. for Atmospheric Research	CWCB PO 2023-3158	4,704.94

7:42 PM
09/14/23
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
August 2023

Date	Name	Account	Amount
08/31/2023	University Corp. for Atmospheric Research	Taylor River Modeling Exp	703.26
	Total University Corp. for Atmospheric Research		5,886.19
	Verizon Wireless		
08/31/2023	Verizon Wireless	Telephone	324.28
	Total Verizon Wireless		324.28
	Visionary Broadband		
08/31/2023	Visionary Broadband	Internet	124.56
	Total Visionary Broadband		124.56
	Western Colorado Conservation Corps		
08/31/2023	Western Colorado Conservation Corps	Wet Meadows COST	8,981.53
	Total Western Colorado Conservation Corps		8,981.53
	Upper Gunn Riv Water Conservancy District		
08/15/2023	Upper Gunn Riv Water Conservancy District	UGRWAE Receivable	150,000.00
	Total Upper Gunn Riv Water Conservancy District		150,000.00
	TOTAL		205,939.43

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Invoices Incurred in July 2023 Paid After August 28, 2023 Board Meeting

Gunnison Country Times	\$	22.00
Applegate Group, Inc.	\$	3,170.00
Atmos Energy	\$	35.23
Atmos Energy	\$	35.39
Bill Nesbitt	\$	441.39
Biologic	\$	12,450.46
Employers Council	\$	1,600.00
Fullmer's Ace Hardware	\$	36.98
Fullmer's Ace Hardware	\$	335.96
GEI Consultants, Inc.	\$	52,442.92
GL Computer Service, Inc.	\$	3,274.94
GL Computer Service, Inc.	\$	400.00
Gunnison Materials, LLC	\$	157.05
Gunnison Materials, LLC	\$	1,358.65
Gunnison Materials, LLC	\$	184.05
Gunnison River Festival	\$	10,000.00
Gunnison Watershed RE1J	\$	2,000.00
Hartman Brother	\$	28.99
High Country Conservation Advocates	\$	18,150.00
John McClow	\$	1,060.00
John McClow	\$	1,319.20
Julia Nania	\$	293.44
KEJJ FM	\$	125.00
King Systems	\$	13,896.83
KVLE FM	\$	125.00
Lexis Nexis	\$	653.70
Lightspeed	\$	265.00
Melinda McCawMedia	\$	77.00
Mike Rogers	\$	314.66
Mill Creek Ranch	\$	5,500.00
New Morning Improvement, LLC	\$	405.00
Viasat	\$	37.45
Silverworld Publishing	\$	117.40
Sunshine Creatives	\$	1,438.20
The Paper Clip	\$	26.48
Thomas River Fillingham	\$	499.43
Bureau of Reclamation	\$	26.50
United States Geological Survey	\$	37,120.00
University Corporation for Atmospheric Res	\$	3,290.39
Verizon	\$	473.11
Water Education Colorado	\$	600.00
Total	\$	173,787.80

AGENDA ITEM 4

**Presentation by Dave Gochis, UCAR
2023 Water Year**

AGENDA ITEM 5

BREAK

AGENDA ITEM 6

Amended Budget for 2023

MEMORANDUM



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Sonja Chavez, General Manager
DATE: September 18, 2023
SUBJECT: Review of 2023 Budget Amendment Items

Staff would like to review with the Board, several new and unanticipated expenses that will require a budget amendment in 2023 including:

- Field vehicle purchase (Toyota Tacoma): \$45,250
- Spencer Avenue Condominium Unit A Purchase: \$650,000
- Spencer Avenue Building Roof Replacement: \$106,000
- Water Budget & Irrigation Return Flow Study: TBD

AGENDA ITEM 7

2024 Budget Work Session

MEMORANDUM



TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors
FROM: Beverly Richards, Office Manager
DATE: September 15, 2023
SUBJECT: 2024 Draft Budget Update Summary

Enclosed is an updated draft of the 2024 budget for discussion. This includes changes made since the draft was presented at the August Board Meeting. The changes include:

- Line 5 – Property Tax Income – Included information from actual county assessors’ documents
- Line 7 – Watershed Management Income – Broke down HAB Study income by Phase 1 and Phase 2, and included remaining TU RESTORE Income
- Line 8 – Wet Meadows Income – Completed income breakdown
- Line 10 – Unspent Funds – Completed expected unspent funds breakdown
- Line 13 – Additional Contribution from Reserve Fund – Balancing amount
- Line 26 – Spencer Avenue Business Park Unit A Renovation – Added renovation amount based on quote from contractor.
- Line 47 – Grant Program – **Request for Action from the Board: Determine final proposed budget amount (\$200k or \$250k, not including \$50k rollover from 2023 cancelled contract).**
- Line 54 – Public Outreach and Education – Increased local school involvement by \$750 to include Lake City schools
- Line 57 – Watershed Management Expense – Broke down HAB Study expenses by Phase 1 and Phase 2

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

2024 Budget Detail

DRAFT

	A	B	C	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1		9/14/23		2023	2024							
2		Account Type	Description	Budget	Budget	Budget						
3				Totals	Detail	Totals						
4		REVENUE										
5	1	Aspinall Water Contract Sales		\$ 20,920	\$ 21,920	\$ 21,920						
6	2	Building Rental Income				\$ 30,000						
7			Unit A		\$ 9,000							
8			Unit C		\$ 21,000							
9	3	Cloud Seeding		\$ 140,750		\$ 142,750						
10		3a	CWCB		\$ 119,000							
11		3b	Gunnison County		\$ 10,000							
12		3c	Gunnison County Stockgrowers		\$ 250							
13		3d	CBMR/Vail Resorts, Inc.		\$ 2,000							
14		3e	East River Sanitation District/Skyland Metro		\$ 2,000							
15		3f	City of Gunnison		\$ 2,000							
16		3g	Town of Mt. Crested Butte		\$ 3,000							
17		3h	Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District		\$ 2,000							
18		3i	Antelope Hills		\$ 500							
19		3j	Dos Rios		\$ 2,000							
20	4	Interest Income		\$ 20,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000						
21		4a	Interest on Investments									
22		4b	Bonds Market Value Adjustment									
23	5	Property Tax Income		\$ 1,598,974		\$ 2,272,777						
24		5a	General Property Tax		2,176,861							
25		5b	Penalties & Interest on Tax		3,960		Includes 3% from 2023					
26		5c	Specific Ownership Tax		91,956							
27	6	Reimbursed Expenses Income		\$ 34,161		38,696						
28		6a	UGRWAE 4.46% Cost Share		\$ 37,832							
29		6b	LSCWAE Cost Share		\$ 864							
30	7	Watershed Management Income		\$ 363,000		\$ 594,250						
31		7a	CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase III)		\$ 76,500							
32		7b	CWCB 2022-2085 (Water Restoration Grant)		\$ 45,000							
33		7c	HAB Phase 1 - CRWCD CFP Funds		\$ 35,000							
34		7d	HAB Phase 2 - Source TBD		\$ 35,000							
35		7e	USBR Drought Contingency		\$ 90,000							
36		7f	USBR Snow Measurement (Tentative)		\$ 279,000							
37		7g	USBR Snow Measurement (WRF-Hydro)		\$ 22,750							
38		7h	TU RESTORE Income		\$ 11,000							
39	8	Wet Meadows Income		\$ 214,950		\$ 300,470						
40		8a	FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem		80,000.00							
41		8b	USFS PA 2022 Income		25,000.00							
42		8c	GOCO 2022 Income		158,100.00							
43		8d	BLM L23AS00197		11,600.00							
44		8e	CAWA 2023-25		25,770.00							
45	9	Water Quality Monitoring Income		\$ 38,869		\$ 42,393						
46		9a	Gunnison County		\$ 16,054							
47		9b	Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise		\$ 14,556							
48		9c	Skyland Metro/East River Sanitation		\$ 1,784							
49		9d	National Park Service		\$ 9,999							
50	10	Unspent Funds from Previous Year				\$ 527,465						

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

2024 Budget Detail

DRAFT

	A	B	C	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
2		Account Type	Description	Budget	Budget	Budget						
3				Totals	Detail	Totals						
51		10a	District Grant Program		\$ 266,940							
52		10b	Public Outreach and Education		16,100							
53		10c	Cloudseeding		104,425							
54		10d	Home Loan Assistance Program		\$ 100,000							
55		10e	HAB Phase 1 Match - UGRWCD		\$ 30,000							
56		10f	Wet Meadows		\$ 10,000							
57	11	Spencer Avenue Unexpected Expense			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000						
58	12	Vehicle Income			\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000						
59	13	Additional Contribution from Reserve Fund		\$ 283,636	(639,896)	(639,896)	Waiting to hear from BLM This is a plug number to balance					
60		TOTAL REVENUES		\$ 2,715,260	\$ 3,405,825	\$ 3,405,825						
61												
63												
64		OPERATING EXPENSES										
65	14	Admin Travel and Expenses		\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000						
66	15	Audit		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000						
67	16	Accounting Services		\$ -	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000						
68	17	BOD Expenses		\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000						
69	18	BOD Mileage		\$ 2,200	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000						
70	19	BOD Mtg Fees		\$ 13,360	\$ 13,360	\$ 13,360						
71	20	Bonding and Insurance		\$ 12,003	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000						
72	21	Building Repair/Maintenance		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000						
73	21a	Unit A			\$ 5,000							
74	21b	Unit C			\$ 5,000							
75	22	CAM			\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400						
76	23	Computer Expense		\$ 26,150		\$ 29,300						
77	23a	Computer Asset Purchase			\$ 6,000							
78	23b	Computer Repair/IT Support			\$ 5,800							
79	23c	Software			\$ 7,500							
80	23d	Internet			\$ 6,500							
81	23e	Carbonite Storage			\$ 3,500							
82	24	Copier Expenses		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500						
83	25	County Treasurers' Fees		\$ 47,969	\$ 49,410	\$ 49,410	Plus 3% from 2023					
84	26	Spencer Avenue Business Park (Unit A Renovation)			\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000						
85	27	Spencer Building Unexpected Expense		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000						
86	27a	Unit A			\$ 5,000							
87	27b	Unit C			\$ 5,000							
88	28	Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions		\$ 15,000		\$ 15,900						
89	28a	Colorado Water Congress Membership			\$ 2,500							
90	28b	NWCCOG - QQ			\$ 600							
91	28c	Water Education Colorado			\$ 600							
92	28d	Special District Association of Colorado			\$ 1,300							
93	28e	Employers Council			\$ 2,000							
94	28f	CWC State Affairs Committee			\$ 550							
95	28g	CWC Federal Affairs Committee			\$ 200							
96	28h	Weather Modification Association			\$ 300							
97	28j	Lexis Nexus			\$ 7,850							
98	29	Legal Publication		\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000						
99	30	Manager's Discretionary Budget		\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000						
100	31	Meeting Expenses		\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000						
101	32	Office Cleaning			\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500						

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

2024 Budget Detail

DRAFT

	A	B	C	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
2		Account Type	Description	Budget	Budget	Budget						
3				Totals	Detail	Totals						
102	33	Office Equipment Exp		\$ 21,500	\$ 21,500	\$ 21,500						
103	34	Office Supplies & Expenses		\$ 21,250	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000						
104	35	Payroll Exp		\$ 762,354		\$ 728,240						
105	35a		CRA Retirement Plan		\$ 46,490							
106	35b		Medical Insurance		\$ 45,060							
107	35c		Payroll Taxes		\$ 45,130							
108	35d		Salaries		\$ 574,870							
109	35e		Staff Development		\$ 9,270							
110	35f		Work Comp Ins		\$ 7,420							
111	36	Postage		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000						
112	37	Telephone		\$ 7,110	\$ 7,110	\$ 7,110						
113	38	Utilities		\$ 15,516		\$ 4,200						
114	38a		Unit A		\$ 1,000							
115	38b		Unit C		\$ 3,200							
116	39	Vehicle Expenses		\$ 4,525	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000						
117		TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$ 1,070,437	\$ 1,227,420	\$ 1,227,420						
118												
119												
120												
121												
122		NON-OPERATING EXPENSES										
123	40	Asp Subordination Report		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500						
124	41	Aspinall Contracts		\$ 17,040	\$ 21,920	\$ 21,920						
125	42	City of Gunnison Cleanup		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000						
126	43	Consulting/Engineering		\$ 15,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 46,000						
127	44	Coal Creek Watershed Coalition		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000						
128	45	Colorado Dust on Snow		\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500						
129	46	Drought Contingency Planning Match		\$ 44,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000						
130	47	District Grant Program		\$ 300,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$50000 rollover 2023 cancellation of grant award for Coal Creek Dam					
131	48	Gunnison County Cheatgrass Coordinator			\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200						
132	49	Gunnison River Festival		\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000						
133	50	Endangered Fish Recovery Program		\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000						
134	51	Home Loan Program Contribution		\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	see rollover funds					
135	52	Lake Fork Valley Conservancy		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000						
136	53	Lake San Cristobal Expenses		\$ 13,464	\$ 13,464	\$ 13,464						
137	54	Public Outreach and Education		\$ 61,680		\$ 61,485						
138	54a		Advertising Radio and Newspapers		\$ 13,000							
139	54b		Ongoing Expenses (Mini-grants Promotional Items)		\$ 11,500							
140	54c		Mayors and Manager Meeting		\$ 300							
141	54d		General Public Outreach		\$ 19,250							
142	54e		Local School Involvement		\$ 12,500							
143	54f		Other Sponsorships		\$ 1,250							
144	54g		Miscellaneous Expenses		\$ 3,685							
145	55	Regional Water Supply Improvement				\$ 565,000						
146	55a		Cloudseeding	\$ 189,060	\$ 173,000							
147	55b		Emergency Response Mitigation		\$ 100,000							
148	55c		Taylor River Modeling		\$ 42,000							
149	55d		H2O Budget and Return Flow Study		\$ 250,000							
150	56	Taylor Park Projects Expense		\$ 7,436	\$ 7,436	\$ 7,436						
151	57	Watershed Management Expense		\$ 482,920		\$ 669,500						

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

2024 Budget Detail

DRAFT

	A	B	C	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
2		Account Type	Description	Budget	Budget	Budget						
3				Totals	Detail	Totals						
152	57a		CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase 3)		\$ 79,500							
153	57b		HAB Phase 1 Expense		\$ 65,000							
154			HAB Phase 2 Expense		\$ 70,000							
155	57c		CWCB 2022-2085 (Watershed Restoration)		\$ 45,000							
156	57d		USBR Drought Contingency		\$ 120,000							
157	57e		USBR Snow Measurement		\$ 279,000							
158	57f		TU RESTORE		\$ 11,000							
159	58	Wet Meadows Expense		\$ 300,470		\$ 320,470						
160	58a		FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem		\$ 80,000							
161	58b		USFS PA 2022 Income		\$ 25,000							
162	58c		GOCO 2022 Income		\$ 158,100							
163	58d		BLM L23AS00197		\$ 11,600							
164	58e		CAWA 2023-25		\$ 25,770							
165	58f		Wet Meadows Miscellaneous		\$ 20,000							
166	59	Water Quality Monitoring		\$ 157,930	\$ 169,930	\$ 169,930						
167		TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES		\$ 1,732,500	\$ 2,154,405	\$ 2,154,405						
168												
169	60	Capital Outlay Expense					Will check with Tom on this item					
170	61	Contingency		\$ 24,000	24,000	24,000						
171												
172		TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 2,826,937	\$ 3,405,825	\$ 3,405,825						

COLORADO WATER CONGRESS COLORADO RIVER PROJECT*

Summary: In mid-1983, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a draft proposal to restrict future water development in the Upper Colorado River Basin in order to protect native fish species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) Colorado River Project was established on December 1, 1983 by a coalition of Colorado and Utah water users. The objective of the Project was to develop an acceptable administrative solution to resolve conflicts between protection of federally listed endangered fish species and development and management of water in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Negotiations among federal agencies, the states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, water interests, and environmental organizations between 1984 and 1987 resulted in establishment of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Implementation Program on January 22, 1988. The Program has the objective of recovering endangered fish while water development and management activities proceed. This objective is being achieved.

The CWC Colorado River Project Coordinator, Tom Pitts, served as principal negotiator for water users from 1983 to 1987. He was subsequently asked to represent water users on the governing and technical committees of the Recovery Program. He is the designated representative to the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program of Upper Basin water users (Colorado Water Congress, Utah Water Users Association, Wyoming Water Association) in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. The CWC Colorado River Project is financially supported by a coalition of water users that constitutes the Executive Committee of the Project. The Project plays a critical role in assuring the on-going success of the Recovery Program.

“For its history of successful stakeholder collaboration resolving seemingly intractable water use conflicts, the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program is granted the Cooperative Conservation Award of the Department of the Interior.”

Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior, April 21, 2008

Requirements of the Endangered Species Act: Four warm water fish species (Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, humpback chub, and bonytail) inhabiting the lower reaches of the Colorado, Green, Duchesne, Yampa, White, and Gunnison rivers were listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Approximately 800 miles of critical habitat for these species has been designated in those rivers. Since the mid-1970s, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has held that any depletion of water, large or small, anywhere in the Upper Colorado River basin will adversely affect the endangered fish species and designated critical habitat. ESA consultation is required for all historic and future depletions from the Upper Colorado river basin that require a federal action for their continuation or implementation, including depletions by Bureau of Reclamation projects. In mid-1983, USFWS proposed that any depletion of water in the Upper Colorado River basin be offset by augmentation of water in exactly the same amount. This potentially eliminated the Upper Basin states’ ability to develop their remaining compact allotments. In light of this proposal, water users in Colorado and Utah established the CWC Colorado River Project on December 1, 1983 with the objective of developing an administrative solution that would provide compliance with the ESA while allowing water development and management to proceed in accordance with state law and interstate compacts.

*Prepared by Tom Pitts, Upper Basin Water Users Representative, Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program; Water Consult, Engineering and Planning Consultants, Loveland, Colorado; Phone: 970-667-8690, email: h2orus@waterconsult.com

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program: Negotiations among federal agencies, the states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, water interests, and environmental organizations were initiated in January, 1984. In mid-1985, the CWC Colorado River Project proposed recovery of the four endangered fish species as the solution to both ESA compliance problems and as the ultimate mechanism for securing regulatory certainty for water users. After two years of detailed negotiations, the Recovery Program was established in January, 1988 by agreement of the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator Western Area Power Administration, and the governors of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

Current participants in the Program include four federal agencies (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Western Area Power Administration), the states of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, Upper Basin water users, Colorado River Storage Project power customers, and environmental organizations (The Nature Conservancy, Western Resource Advocates).

ESA compliance for water projects: Program actions taken to recover the species include construction of fish passages, fish screens, habitat improvements, non-native fish control, enhancing instream flows in accordance with state water law and interstate compacts, stocking, monitoring, and research. These actions provide the ESA compliance for water depletions and water management in the Upper Colorado River Basin. In entering the agreement to establish the Program, the United States agreed that any water needed for endangered fish would be acquired in accordance with state law and interstate compacts, and that there would be no taking of water or condemnation of water rights. The states, water users and the Bureau of Reclamation committed to finding ways to provide water for endangered fish in accordance with state law, interstate compacts and Reclamation project authorizations.

As of December 31, 2022, the Recovery Program has provided ESA compliance for 2,203 water projects depleting approximately 2.8 million acre-feet/year in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. This includes 1,262 projects in Colorado depleting 2.1 million acre-feet per year, 266 projects in Utah depleting 619,439 acre-feet per year, and 434 projects in Wyoming depleting 124,463 acre-feet per year. No lawsuits have been filed on ESA compliance provided by the Recovery Program. ESA compliance has been streamlined for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, federal agencies, and water users.

Role of the CWC Colorado River Project in the Upper Basin Recovery Program: The CWC Colorado River Project plays a key role in Program implementation. The Project supports participation by the water users representative in the Recovery Program's governing and technical committees. Participation ensures that the Program is implemented in accordance with agreements establishing the Program. The water users representative confers with and seeks input from the Executive Committee on key Recovery Program issues. The water users representative provides assistance to water users throughout the Upper Basin when needed to assure that ESA Section 7 consultations on water projects are carried out in accordance with Program agreements.

Because the Colorado River Project is not part of a federal or state agency, the Project has considerable latitude in dealing directly with the United States Congress and presidential administrations with respect to Recovery Program matters. Since the inception of the Program, the Project has been involved in successful efforts to secure federal funding for the Program. In 2000, the Project garnered Congressional support for and coordinated passage of federal legislation (P.L. 106-392) that authorized federal cost sharing for the Program and use of Colorado River Storage Project hydropower revenues for Program activities, and recognizes non-federal cost sharing. The Project has played a leading role in passage of subsequent amendments to expand federal cost-sharing as needed. Each year the Project works with other non-federal participants to secure annual appropriations by Congress for the Program in accordance with the authorizing legislation. As of September 30, 2023, Congress has appropriated \$173,552,000 in support of the Program and authorized \$115,774,000 in Colorado River Storage Project Colorado River Project hydropower revenues to support the Program. Total

program costs FY 1989 through FY 2023 were \$478,919,000, including non-federal contributions and credits to participants for various activities.

Participants in the CWC Colorado River Project: A broad coalition of twenty-three water organizations on the east slope and west slope of Colorado and in Utah support the CWC Colorado River Project in representing water users on the Recovery Program (Attachment 1). Each contributor is a member of the Project's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is kept informed of Project activities through regular meetings and correspondence. The Committee provides guidance and direction to the CWC Colorado River Project Coordinator representing water users on critical Program activities and proposed regulatory activities by the USFWS that could affect ESA compliance.

ATTACHMENT 1

Colorado Water Congress Colorado River Project Executive Committee Participants

City of Aurora
City of Broomfield
Central Utah Water Conservancy District
Clifton Water District
Colorado River Water Conservation District
Colorado Springs Utilities
Denver Water
Dolores Water Conservancy District
City of Grand Junction
Grand Valley Water Users Association
City of Greeley
City of Longmont
City of Loveland
Municipal Subdistrict, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Pueblo Board of Water Works
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District
Southwestern Water Conservation District
Tri-County Water Conservancy District
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association
Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District
Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Ute Water Conservancy District



September 9, 2023

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

Subject: 2024 Funding Request from the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition

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

The Coal Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC) is extremely grateful for the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District's (UGRWCD) generous support of our organization in 2023. UGRWCD's Watershed Coalition Support Funds, \$10,000.00, were matched with approximately \$150,000.00 from other partners. In 2023 CCWC continued water quality monitoring in the Coal Creek Watershed, assisted the Town of Crested Butte and County to evaluate water quality issues associated with the Keystone Mine, and continued community outreach and education efforts. UGRWCD's funding is critical to CCWC's success. In 2023, CCWC proposes to use UGRWCD Watershed Coalition Support Funds for the following:

- **Grant Writing and Fundraising:** CCWC has limited funding to secure grants to support projects to improve water quality and watershed health. Funds provided by the UGRWCD would be used to secure grants from local, state, and federal agencies, and to increase donations. In 2024, our fundraising efforts will focus on the Gossan Restoration Project. CCWC requests \$3,500 for grant writing and fundraising.
- **Long-term Water Quality Monitoring Program:** CCWC would like to use funds from the UGRWCD to fund staff time for our water quality monitoring programs. These funds would be matched, with approximately \$40,000 in additional funds, through existing partnerships. CCWC requests \$2,500 from the UGRWCD to support water quality monitoring.
- **Administrative Duties and Community Education:** As the diversity and geographic scope of CCWC's projects increase so do our administrative duties. Administrative funds would be used for meeting facilitation, website maintenance, and project development. CCWC requests \$4,000 from the UGRWCD to support administrative duties and community education.

CCWC's request for 2024 totals \$10,000.00. CCWC appreciates the support from the UGRWCD. I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding CCWC's activities. We look forward to sharing our annual report with the UGRWD later this year.

Sincerely,

Ashley Bembenek
Executive Director
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition
970-251-0029



City of Gunnison

August, 30, 2023

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
210 Spencer Ave
Gunnison CO 81230

Dear Sonja Chavez and the Board of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District,

Thank you again for your generous donation of \$750 for swimming lessons this summer. It is time again to start our summer planning for 2024.

We are set to offer lessons from June 1st through the 7th of June. I am planning on offering 4 sessions a day and have about 6 teachers/volunteers to assist. We plan on teaching close to 300 kids through this program. We are seeking funding from other sources to match yours so we can cover the costs and offer some safety literature to the kids and parents.

Thanks you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have questions.

Tami Maciejko

City of Gunnison Aquatic Director

tmaciejko@gunnisonco.gov
970-641-8423



Board of Directors
UGRWCD
210 W. Spencer Ave., Suite B
Gunnison, CO 81230
(970) 641-6065

Date: 9/15/2024

Subject: 2024 Funding Request from RMBL

Dear UGRWCD Board of Directors,

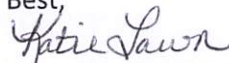
During the fall of 2022 and 2023, with the financial support from UGRWCD, the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL) youth science educators developed and implemented new 3rd and 5th grade curriculum specifically focused on learning about the Upper Gunnison River Watershed. With this support we were able to reach over 160 students from Gunnison Elementary School in both the fall of 2022 and 2023. In addition, this fall 2nd-5th grade students from Lake City School will be participating in this program at RMBL. These lessons were created to give students exposure to hands-on field science happening at RMBL, make connections to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) that the teachers utilize in the classroom while also discovering the importance of watersheds in our landscapes.

RMBL would like to ask for continued financial support in providing this watershed science program opportunity for the Gunnison Elementary School and the Lake City School students for 6 days of programming for approximately 175 students at RMBL in the fall of 2024.

Our true program cost breakdown is as follows:

- \$2,880 - Youth Science Coordinator Salary (this includes 6 days of program development/preparation + 6 days of programming @ \$240/day)
- \$2,400 - Youth Science Instructor Salary (2 instructors for 6 days programming @ \$200/day)
- \$4,200 - RMBL Daily User Fee of \$24/per person/day (station and admin. fees)
- \$800 - Program materials/supplies (handouts, soil moisture meters, thermometers, etc.)
- **Total cost for 175 students from GES and Lake City for fall 2024 = \$10,280**

Your continued support is greatly appreciated, RMBL is grateful for these partnerships to bring science education outside for our local students.

Best,

Katie Lawn, Youth Programs Coordinator
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
PO Box 519, Crested Butte CO 81224

AGENDA ITEM 8

Basin Water Supply

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board Members

FROM: Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist

DATE: September 15, 2023

SUBJECT: Basin Water Supply Information

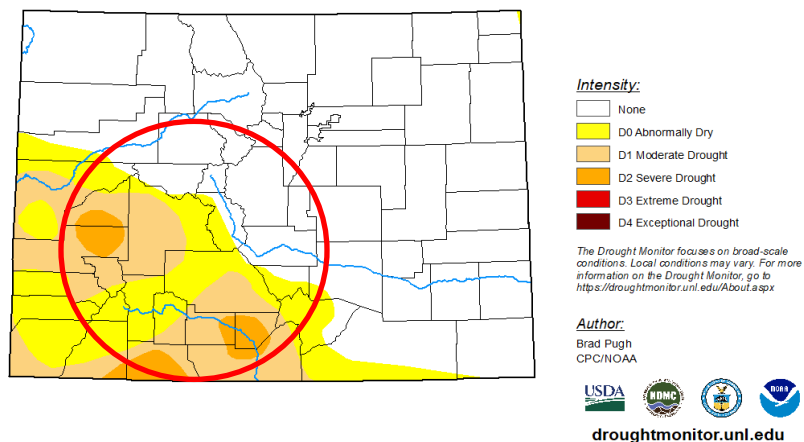
The information supplied as part of this memorandum is a monthly feature and includes information about drought, precipitation, streamflow, and reservoir storage.

Current Conditions – Drought and Precipitation

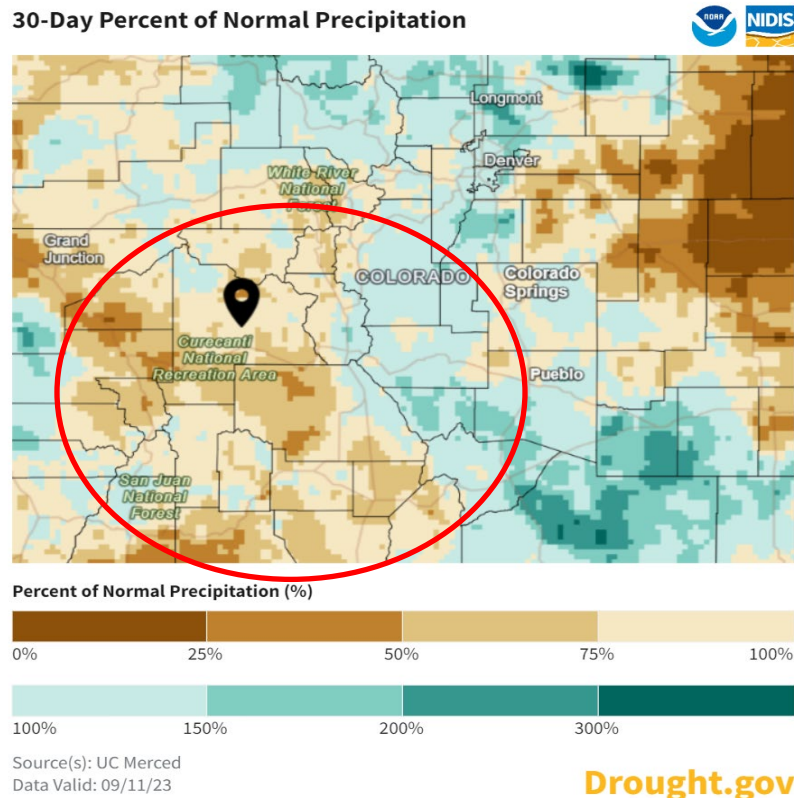
As shown in the map from the *US Drought Monitor* dated September 12, 2023, drought conditions continue to return in a large portion of the western and southwestern part of the state. Gunnison County currently shows 36% of the county experiencing abnormally dry (D0) conditions and 64% of the county has moved into moderate drought conditions (D1). Hinsdale County shows 91% of the county in abnormally dry conditions and the other 9% is now in moderate drought conditions. Saguache County shows 56% of the county is experiencing abnormally dry conditions and 44% has moved into moderate drought conditions. According to the *Climate Center Webinar* dated September 12, 2023, the drought continued to expand across southwest Colorado in August. Drought coverage increased from 5% to 14% of the entire state. Severe drought conditions (D2) were also introduced in the San Luis Valley in August.

U.S. Drought Monitor **Colorado**

September 12, 2023
(Released Thursday, Sep. 14, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

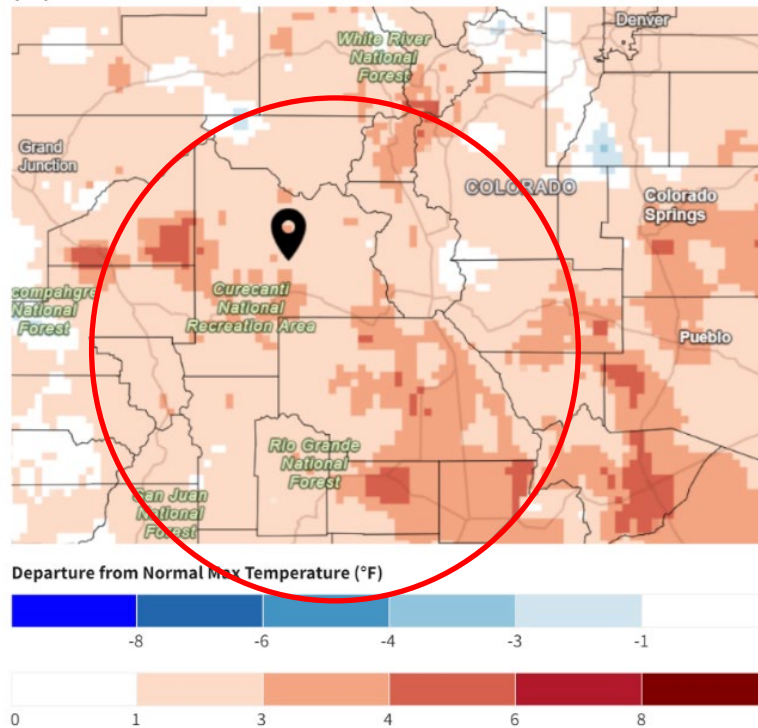


The severe drought region coincides with areas that have observed a record or near-record dry summer for the months of June through August. As you can see from the figure provide below (*Drought.gov*, September 11, 2023), precipitation in the Upper Gunnison River Basin for the past 30 days has remained on the dry side with a large portion of the area receiving only 25 to 150% of normal precipitation. Though this is the case, precipitation in August has historically been low in this area, so 150% of below average precipitation in an advantage.



For the past 30 days temperatures has been warmer than normal as shown in the figure provided below dated September 11, 2023. This figure shows that temperatures for the past 30 days have ranged from +1 degree to +6 degrees above normal in the entire area for this time of year which adds to the dry conditions being experienced in the basin.

30-Day Departure from Normal Maximum Temperature (°F)

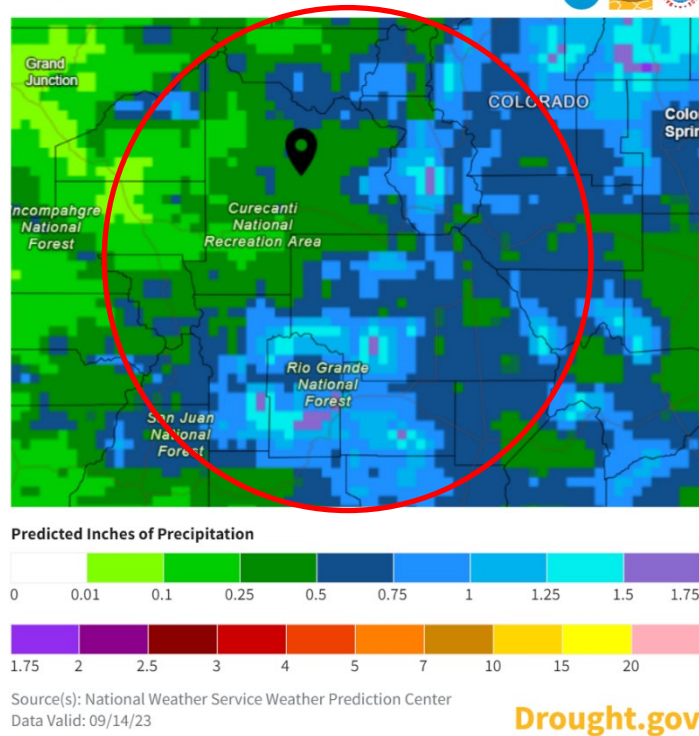


Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 09/11/23

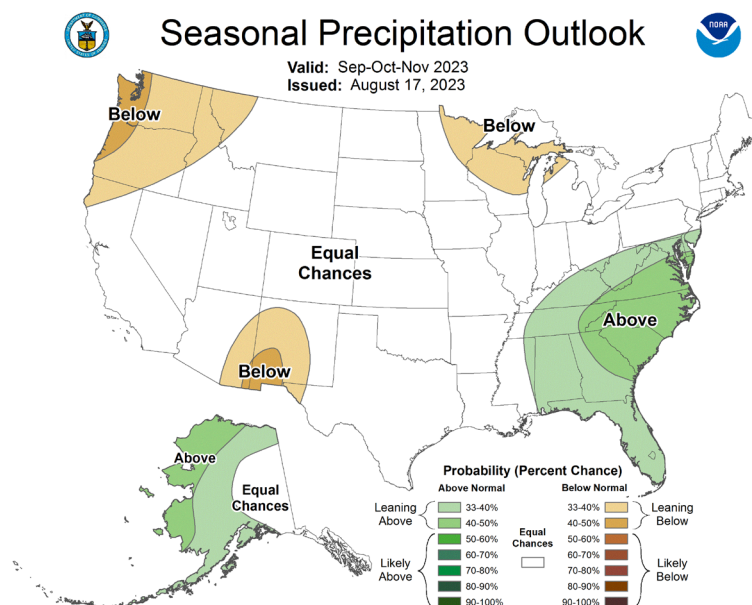
Drought.gov

On a more positive note, the 7-day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast figure below dated September 14, 2023, shows the precipitation forecast for the next seven days. This forecast indicates that the area could receive precipitation in the range of 0.01” all the way up to 1.75” in small areas of Saguache and Hinsdale Counties.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



As seen in the figure below from *NOAA* dated August 17, 2023, the three-month (Sep-Oct-Nov) outlook indicates that there is an equal chance throughout the state of above or below average precipitation. *The Climate Center* did indicate that the state should consider the below average precipitation outlook that are forming in the southwest as part of the forecast.



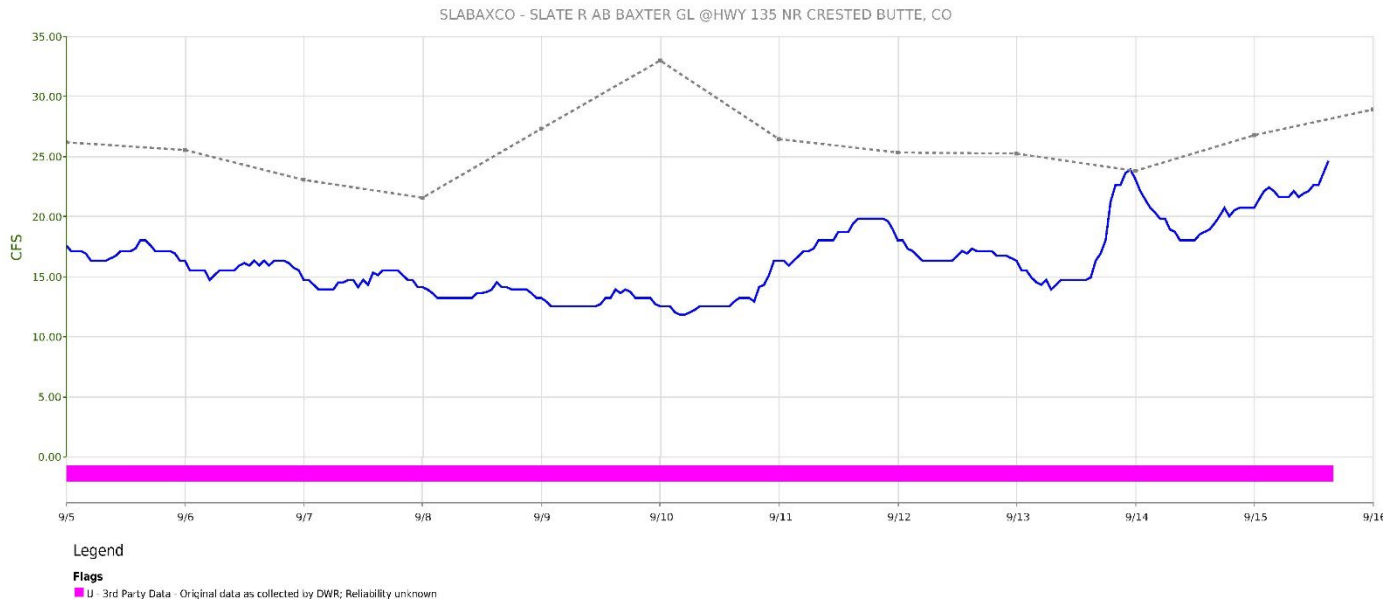
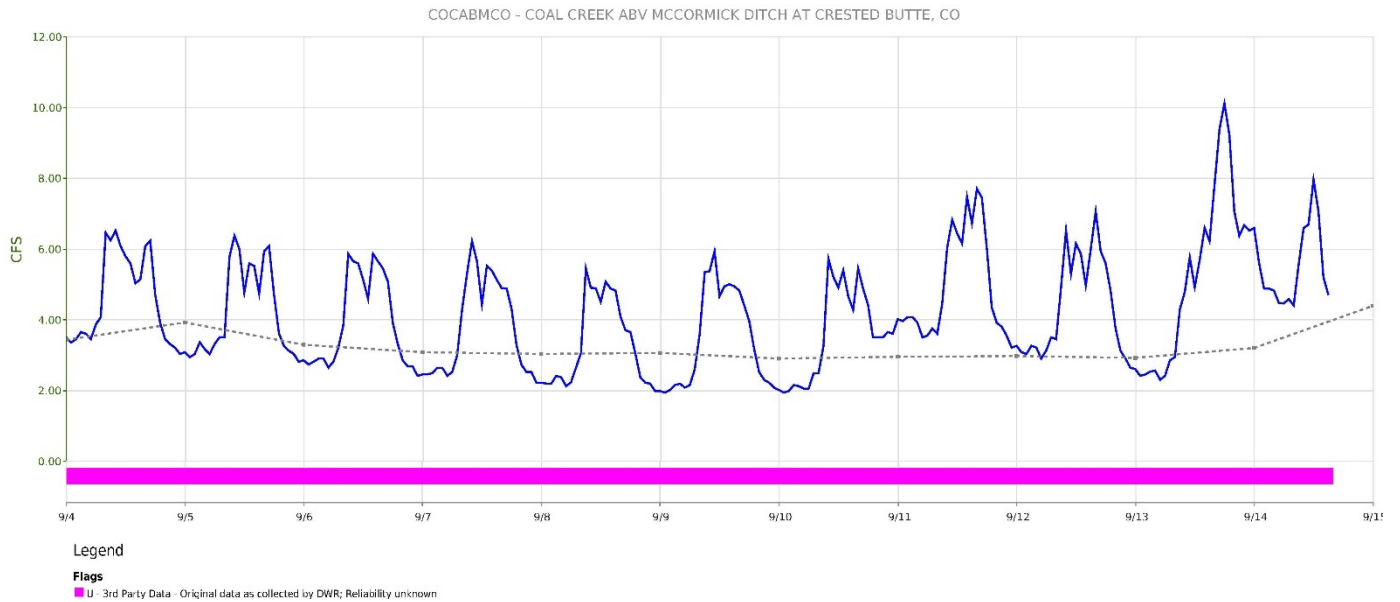
Streamflow Information

Streamflow information throughout the basin is provided in the table below. As shown, streamflows at all of the sites on September 14 have continued to decrease as is typical of this time of year. *NRCS* is still indicating the streamflows are in the normal range for those site they monitor in the basin but as shown below a number of sites are recording below the historical average for September 14.

Station Name	August 17 (cfs)	September 14 (cfs)	Historical Average September 14 (cfs)
Gunnison River near Gunnison	662	417	527
Gunnison River at Gunnison Whitewater Park	590	408	283
Tomichi Creek at Sargent's	37	28	28
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	111	84	97
Taylor River at Taylor Park	68	56	63
Taylor River blw Taylor Park Reservoir	352	291	293
Taylor River at Almont	432	371	395
Slate River abv Baxter Gulch	29	19	24
Coal Creek abv McCormick Ditch	4	5	3
East River blw Cement Creek	125	94	126
East River at Almont	148	127	129
Ohio Creek near Baldwin	32	17	28
Lake Fork blw Lake San Cristobal*	77	35	34
Henson Creek at Lake City	66	31	36
Lake Fork at Gateview	185	107	114

*There is an instream flow right associated with this gage site. The summer rate of 35 cfs remains in place until October 1. Robert Hurd is monitoring and will continue to release water out of Lake San Cristobal to keep the flows as close to 35 cfs as possible.

Some of the gage sites, particularly in the north part of the valley, are showing considerable fluctuations due to recent precipitation. The hydrographs for Coal Creek Abv McCormick Ditch and Slate River Abv Baxter Gulch are shown below to highlight those fluctuations.

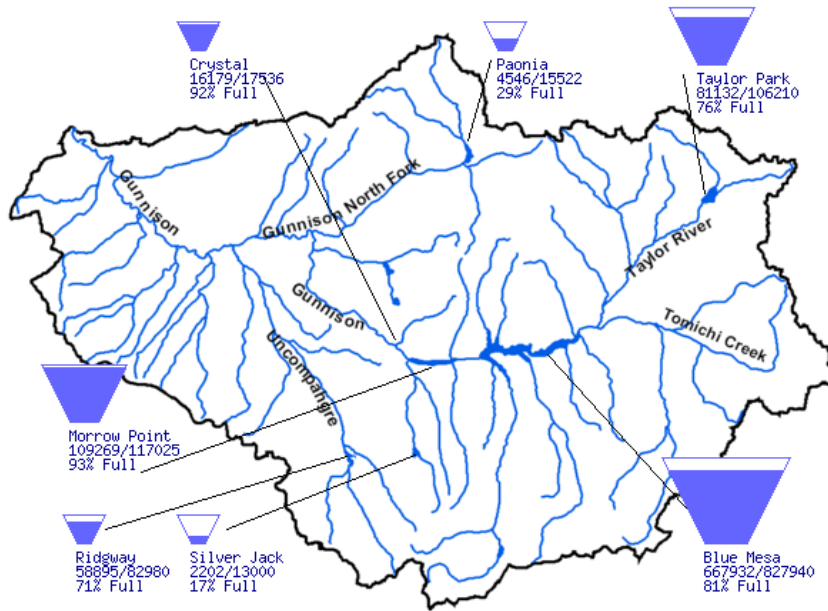


Reservoir Storage and Operations

According to the *Tea-Cup Diagram from the Bureau of Reclamation* dated September 14, reservoir storage in the entire Gunnison Basin is at 66% of full, which is a decrease of 17% from last month's report. The lower totals are due in part to the levels in Paonia and Silver Jack Reservoirs both of which are used primarily for agriculture. The reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison basin, Taylor and Blue Mesa, are at 77% and 81% of full respectively. The total reservoir storage in the Upper Gunnison basin is 79% which is a decrease of 7% from last month's report.

Data Current as of:
09/14/2023

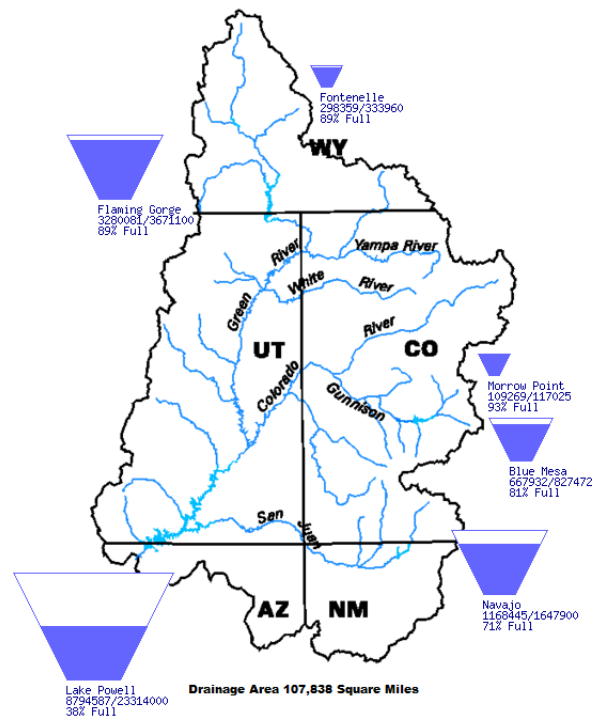
Gunnison River Basin, CO



Reservoir storage in the Upper Colorado River Basin is now at 77% full. This is a 3% decrease from last month's report, but a 14% increase from last year at this time. This is reflected in the tea-cup diagram below dated September 14.

Data Current as of:
09/14/2023

Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



Aspinall Unit Operations:

As of August 24, 2023 (*Aspinall Operations Meeting*), the actual unregulated inflow into Blue Mesa for April-July was 834,000 acre-feet which is 132% of average.

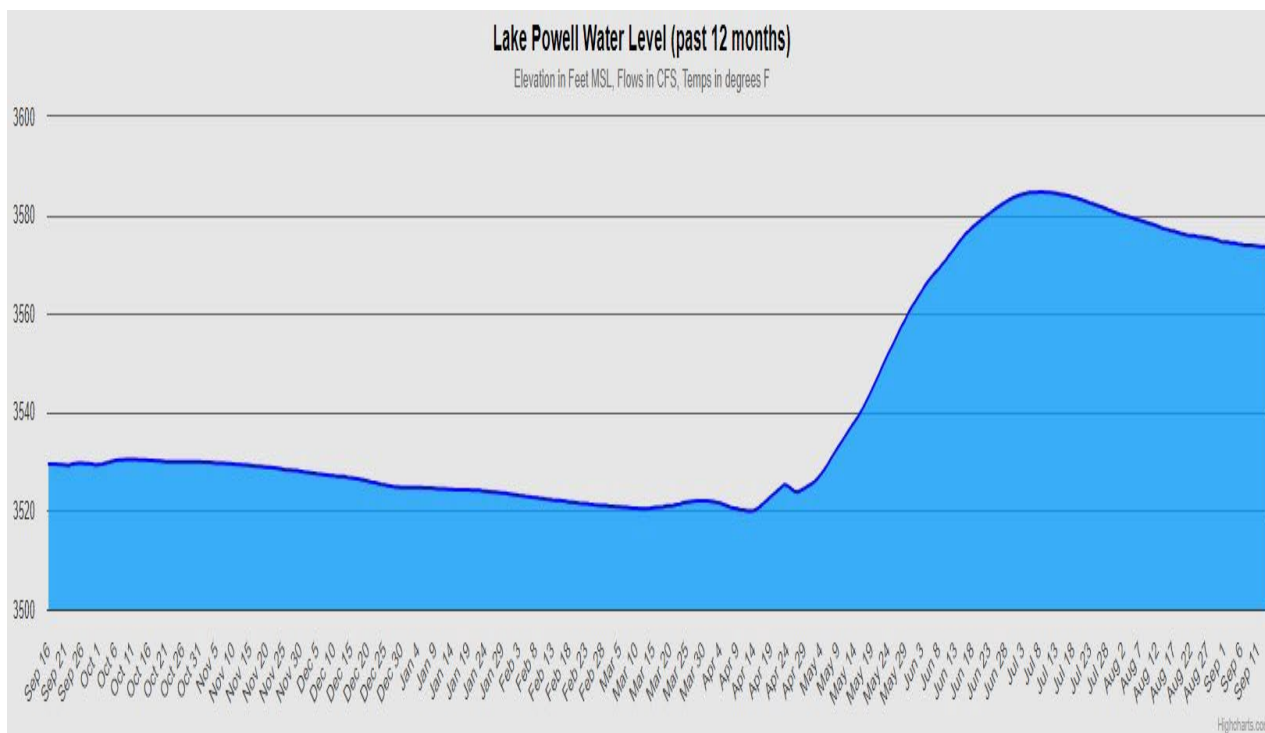
The total WY23 unregulated inflow amount to Blue Mesa is projected to be 1.08 million acre-feet (maf) which is 120% of normal. Blue Mesa reached its peak on June 25 at an elevation of 7512.47 feet which corresponds to 92.4% full storage in the reservoir. As of August 24, 2023, the reservoir was at 711,000 acre-feet or 86% full. This is 13 feet below full storage. Per Erik Knight, the reservoir has now completely recovered the DROA releases of 36,000 acre-feet that occurred in 2021.

By the end of WY23 Blue Mesa elevation is projected to be approximately 7500.21 feet which corresponds to 659,950 acre-feet of storage or 80% of capacity. Based on reservoir operations, the reservoir will be drawn down to 70% or 579,558 acre-feet to meet the icing target by December 31, 2023. This is aimed at preventing icing issues upstream of the reservoir.

Lake Powell Operations:

This information is provided by the *Lake Powell Water Database* webpage (lakepowell.water-data.com) and is dated September 14, 2023.

Lake Powell elevation is currently 3573.63 feet with a content of 8,794,587 acre-feet which is 36% full. The hydrograph provided below shows the elevation change for the past twelve months. Water storage has risen by 2.9 maf in WY23 to date. In the last ten years the content in Lake Powell has averaged 11.29 maf on September 14. Lake Powell is now 126.37 feet below the full pool



Total inflows into Lake Powell for WY23 to date are 11.7 maf which is 116% of the average for September 14. The inflows for WY23 are 219% of the inflows for WY22 and total inflows for WY23 have exceeded outflows by 3.3 maf. Total releases for WY2023 to date have been 8.3 maf which is 111% of the minimum required releases of 7.5 maf.

AGENDA ITEM 9

General Manager and Committee Reports

AGENDA ITEM 9

Treasurer's Report

MEMORANDUM



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Sonja Chavez, General Manager
DATE: September 18, 2023
SUBJECT: General Manager Update & Staff Reports (September)

I. Treasurer's Report

II. General Manager Updates

A. Spencer Avenue Business Park Update: The UGRWCD received a preliminary renovation estimate from our contractor. The preliminary renovation estimate is \$160,000. Executive Management still needs to work with the contractor to further refine that estimate. Several items were removed to decrease the renovation budget including the upstairs kitchenette, two additional security doors to the back offices as each staff office has a locking door, and the back deck. The contractor estimates that the work will commence February of 2024 and take 45-60 days.

B. Colorado Employer's Benefit Trust (CEBT) Willis Tower Watson Medical Insurance Premium Increase: The General Manager attended the Special District Association (SDA) webinar regarding CEBT 2024 Medical Renewal Rate on September 7th. Important outcomes from that meeting were:

- Notification that there would be a medical insurance premium increase of five percent for the UGRWCD PPO2 plan. The increase will be effective January 2024 and will go from \$1,006 to 1,056.30 per participating employee.
- Individual deductibles for medical care will decrease from \$600 to \$500.
- Individual out-of-pocket for in-network services will decrease from \$3,500 to \$2,000 and for out-of-network will decrease from \$7,000 to \$4,000.
- No change to monthly premiums for dental (\$40), vision (\$9), and life and AD&D (\$2.83)

A five percent increase is reasonable considering ongoing inflation. CEBT has done a great job keeping premiums as low as possible and staff are very happy with the PPO2 plan and appreciate the Board's overall support for our benefit program. The reductions in deductibles provide an additional benefit to our employees. Finally, the District will have a second employee moving from CEBT to a Medicare plan in 2024.

The General Manager also plans to speak to CEBT about the ability for employees to personally purchase additional voluntary life and AD&D and will report back to the board and staff about this option.

It is the General Manager's position that the District can absorb the medical premium increase from \$1,006 (2023) to \$1,056.30 (2024) or (\$50.30/employee) without significant impact to the District's budget. The District can also continue to pay one hundred percent of our employees' Medicare insurance premiums which are approximately 46% lower than the CEBT's premium and still give employees utilizing Medicare, the option to utilize CEBT's dental, vision, and life and AD&D if they so choose.

Recommendations for Board Action: Approve CEBT 2024 renewal rate and submit documentation by October 15, 2023.

- C. Regarding Informal Mill Levy Decrease Discussion with Saguache County Commissioners:** The General Manager informed the board last month that the Saguache Board of County Commissioners (SBOCC) sent an email request to a number of entities including UGRWCD for an informal discussion on September 12 about the possibility of lowering mill levies and what if any assistance can be given to taxpayers in Saguache County due to increasing property values. The General Manager attended the meeting in person. There were a number of other entities who had mill levies that were also in attendance (e.g., fire protection districts, school districts, etc.). In all, there were about 10-12 individuals in attendance (besides commissioners and staff).

Commissioners started the meeting by expressing to attendees their appreciation for their attendance and willingness to discuss a reduction in mills. When starting the discussion, they specifically noted that SB23-108 and SB23-303 (see descriptions and links in paragraph below) both gave local entities the ability to consider mill levy reductions.

[SB23-108](#) **Allowing Temporary Reductions in Property Tax Due** (*...allows a local government to provide temporary property tax relief through temporary property tax credits or mill levy reductions and later eliminate the credits to restore the mill levy.*).

[SB23-303](#) **Reduce Property Taxes And Voter-approved Revenue Change** (*Concerning a reduction in property taxes, and, in connection therewith, creating a limit on annual property tax increases for certain local governments; temporarily reducing the valuation for assessment of certain residential and nonresidential property; creating new subclasses of property; permitting the state to retain and spend revenue up to the proposition HH cap; requiring the retained revenue to be used to reimburse certain local governments for lost property tax revenue and to be deposited in the state education fund to backfill the reduction in school district property tax revenue; transferring general fund money to the state public school fund and to a cash*

fund to also be used for the reimbursements; eliminating the cap on the amount of excess state revenues that may be used for the reimbursements for the 2023 property tax year; referring a ballot issue; and making an appropriation)

All entities expressed their understanding about concerns around increasing taxes due to increasing property values but also expressed that just as taxes are increasing, their operating costs are also increasing (30% to \$300% depending upon the item) due to rising energy prices and continued supply chain issues (e.g., equipment, gasoline, electric, etc.). They also expressed that many cannot reduce their mill levies either because they are mandated by law to ensure public safety (e.g., fire protection district can't reduce their mills and forego buying gasoline or fixing a broken fire vehicle) or because they must maintain existing mills to ensure repayment of school bonds or because they cannot go below a minimum.

The UGRWCD informed commissioners that our mill was currently 1.92 mills and that the income received from those northern portions of Saguache County within our boundary amounted to \$8,500 in 2023 and were estimated to be \$11,000 in 2024 and therefore a reduction in our mill would likely not result in noticeable relief to their constituents.

The Saguache County Commissioners ended the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and indicated they knew that a mill reduction would be difficult for entities but felt that they had an obligation to respond to their constituent concerns by having the conversation with us.

D. Water Quality Update

1. On August 30th, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) held their annual water quality and quantity program meeting for the Upper Gunnison watershed. With regard to the cost of the annual program, the USGS informed their partners that they will see a 5.1 to 10.7 percent increase in annual program costs because of supply chain issues, increasing travel and laboratory costs (depending upon if they contribute to stream flow monitoring, water quality monitoring, or both). The UGRWCD will see a 7.6% increase in 2024 which amounts to \$7,488. Total UGRWCD Cost in 2024 is \$106,550 and Total Program Cost is \$378,209 (includes all partners and USGS Cooperative Matching Funds). The USGS indicated that their matching program funding pool has remained flat. A copy of the draft meeting minutes is attached as Exhibit A.

Recommendation for Board Action: Approve general fund expenditure in the amount of \$106,550 in support of the 2024 Joint Funding Agreement with the USGS for water quality and quantity monitoring, data collection and analyses.

2. The UGRWCD hosted the Water Quality Control Commission at the UGRWCD office for their Annual Planning Retreat in Gunnison on September 11th and 12th and paid for the campsite fee at Elk Creek for their evening barbecue and recreational activity (four stand-up paddle boards). There was good attendance from local municipalities and other local entities at the meeting including Director Rogers. The General Manager wishes to recognize our wonderful staff for all their logistical help and support throughout the WQCC visit.

E. Drought Planning

1. UGRWCD Drought Contingency Planning Update

Please see attached memorandum from Water Resources Fellow, Alana Nichols.

2. State of Colorado Drought Planning Task Force

Discussion on September 14, 2023, focused on intra-state drought resiliency tools. Verbal update will be given by General Manager

F. Upper Gunnison Basin Water Budget & Irrigation Return Flow Study

Background: UGRWCD water users were asked about their interest in participating in a high-elevation grass hay demand management pilot study by the Colorado River District (CRD) at our February 2023 board meeting. Water users expressed concern over the long-term and multi-year impacts to production and cattle operations and impacts to their neighbors and downstream water users. CRD's goal was to try get data and information that could support the Western Slope's position that demand management couldn't be accomplished in a flood dominated system without significant impacts.

At the August 2023 Regular Board meeting of the UGRWCD, a number of directors indicated their willingness to meet with staff to provide additional input, clarification and refinement of primary research questions of the UGRWCD to USGS. At the time of the development of this memorandum, staff were in the process of finding a meeting time and date. If we are able to have that meeting in advance of the September 25th regular meeting, we will report back verbally to the board on outcomes.

G. Town of Crested Butte Source Water Protection Planning

Verbal update from Water Resource Specialist, Cheryl Cwelich.

H. Wet Meadows Program Update

Please see memorandum from staff member, Cheryl Cwelich (Water Resource Specialist and Wet Meadows Program Coordinator).

I. Education and Outreach Update for June 2023

Please see memorandum from staff member, Sue Uerling (Communications Specialist).

J. Taylor Local Users Group

Please see attached draft minutes from the September 8th TLUG meeting. General Manager Chavez will provide an update as TLUG Chair Don Sabrowski was not able to participate in the meeting. A verbal update will also be given if the TLUG meets on September 20th after the mid-month forecast.

K. Scientific Endeavors

- Verbal update from Director Rosemary Carroll.
- Verbal update from General Manager Chavez: Airborne Snow Observatory conference presentation September 13 and field site visit with U.S. Forest Service supervisor and staff and Ken Williams (Lawrence Berkley National Laboratories, Department of Energy) on September 15.

L. Gunnison Basin Roundtable

- Verbal update from General Manager

2023 Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Program

Annual Meeting Summary

August 30th, 2023

Attendees:

In Person:

Steve Anders (USGS)
Bryan Moore (USGS)
Sonja Chavez (UGRWCD)
Cheryl Cwelich (UGRWCD)
Beverly Richards (UGRWCD)
Alana Nichols (UGRWCD)
Ari Yamaguchi (UGRWCD)

By Zoom:

Trisha Solberg
Julie Nania
Rosemary Carroll
Mathew Hoyte
Shea Early
Shannon Hessler

Sonja Chavez called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

USGS Program Updates: Streamflow Data Review

Bryan Moore presented the Upper Gunnison River Basin USGS streamflow network. He used the USGS National Water Dashboard maps to show the USGS streamgages and USGS precipitation sites around the Gunnison area. The Grand Junction office operates a total of 118 discharge and stage only sites and a total of 31 precipitation sites around the western slope. The Gunnison area alone has a total of eight cooperative streamgages and two precipitations sites.

Bryan Moore provided an overview of how data collection and surveying is established for USGS streamgaging. When establishing a gauge, an arbitrary reference point is established for stream elevation. This reference ensures that even during periods of low flows, they can avoid negative values in their measurements. The key features that are routinely surveyed are staff plates, reference points, and crest-stage gages. The gages are surveyed every 1 to 3 years to maintain accurate stage reading. Traditionally, the elevation of the gage has been determined using topographic maps or Google Earth, and neither of these methods was tied to real-world

elevations until recently. A significant effort has been made to use Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) to connect these stage elevations with real-world elevations. The GNSS aspect of this process is not yet commonly displayed in most cases. However, there are two examples in Florida that were shown where sites use NWIS Legacy and the National Water Dashboard to display the actual surface water elevation for stage data. In theory, this approach could also be applied in Colorado.

Steve Anders highlighted the significance of this new data for our involvement in the groundwater- surface water study. It will enable us to precisely determine the groundwater's elevation in relation to the surface water's elevation.

Bryan Moore further explains the USGS data collection efforts. The discharge measurements are performed using a variety of equipment, methods and software. In order to take accurate discharge measurements extensive training, QA and training is used. Measurements are typically taken 8-9 times a year at each site, with a six-week interval between them. However, this interval may vary depending on the hydrograph's behavior. For instance, during periods of high flows, efforts are made to obtain more measurements in order to define these less common, higher flows. Additionally, other factors such as vegetation, beaver activity, and human disturbances can influence the frequency of measurements, either increasing or decreasing it. The site visits include repairing equipment issues, transmission issues, operating equipment, safety operations and precipitation calibrations. The site maintenance includes repair of infrastructure due to frost heave or extreme events, enclosures and on rare occasions theft. By 2026 all data collection platforms (DCPs) will need to be upgraded and compatible with GEOS CS2 (certification standard 2) satellite transmission protocols.

Bryan Moore introduced new methods for stream data collection. Traditionally, when measuring flow, various points within the water column are sampled to determine velocity, and an area is calculated based on depth, width and velocity to determine discharge. The new method employs a probability concept to find the highest velocity on the water surface. If this point is well-represented, we can use calculations to determine discharge. By continuously monitoring surface velocity and stage height, we can calculate discharge in real time. The goal is to reduce the frequency of discharge measurements. Image velocimetry detects changes in the surface water and measures parameters like velocity magnitude and direction. This information is processed through LSPIV (Large Scale Particle Image Velocimetry) and STIV (Space-Time Image Velocimetry) programs, allowing us to estimate discharge by simply recording videos of the stream. It's important to note that if the channel's area changes, it still needs to be resurveyed. However, this velocity sensor can detect changes in stream velocity even if the stage remains constant, resulting in more accurate discharge calculations. There are two methods that can be used to collect the video of the surface water which is LSPIV or the use of drones. The tools can detect the surface water and capture imagery within the body of water. The goal is to use a doppler velocity radar on a sUAS to measure surface velocity, coupled with channel area to compute river discharge. Another advantage of the video is that it provides a tool for individuals to go out during periods of exceptionally high flows. They can collect velocity data and use it in

calculations to obtain a more accurate estimate of the high discharges, especially in cases where velocity cannot be measured manually by someone.

Bryan Moore provides information on data review and publications. The technicians perform daily data review transmissions and equipment issues for all assigned sites on USGS Monitoring Station. If problems are found, the web data is qualified, and issues are addressed immediately. The publications require technicians to analyze the data as soon as possible. Throughout the year deadlines are set for analysis and subsequent approval. One of the final products created after the end of the water year are the Water-Year summaries. The last piece of it is auditing criteria established by the USGS Water Mission Area which entails additional review of all approved data on a reoccurring basis. The data visualization tools used are SNOTEL SWE and USGS Streamflow Snow to Flow Plots, Duration Hydrographs and Cumulative Streamflow Hydrograph on the USGS Water Watch webpage. Additionally, the USGS National Water Dashboard is a valuable tool that offers customizable maps with multiple selective layers. This dashboard map can display basins with real-time site conditions, as well as precipitation stations with current weather radar data and rainfall from the past days.

Trisha Solberg emphasizes to the group that public input and feedback on the tools they find valuable for the USGS National Water Dashboard are crucial. This input helps them understand which features should be retained and which should be removed.

Water Quality Data Review:

Trisha Solberg shows a table of the current water quality sampling locations. The number of samples taken is approximate and based on a long-term data collection program.

The 2023 modification to the water quality sampling program included the addition of Marshall creek to the program because there was little to no historical data or USGS data on the area. It was also intended to understand the background concentrations for arsenic, nutrients, major ions, trace analysis, turbidity, E. coli and suspended sediment in the Marshall creek area. The addition of Marshall creek also maximizes data collection by leveling out what was being collected at other sites. Additionally, quarterly samplings of major ions are now being conducted on Coal Creek, Tomichi Creek, and Taylor Park. Unfiltered arsenic sampling has been incorporated for Slate River, Cement Creek, East River, Ohio Creek, and Tomichi Creek. Furthermore, the parameter of Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC) is now being measured for Slate River, Tomichi Creek below Cochetopa Creek, and Tomichi Creek at Gunnison. There is also an expanded sample analysis of field alkalinity for Coal Creek, Taylor River, and Tomichi Creek. Lastly, Uranium analysis has been added to both Tomichi Creek sites. The 2023 water quality sampling program introduced new analyses, including the sampling of arsenic at six sites and uranium at three sites. These samples are planned to be collected quarterly throughout the year, with two additional samples during the more active hydrograph period, typically between April and October. In 2022, the range of flows sampled varied from a minimum of 173 cfs in February to a maximum of 1501 cfs in May. As of now, the 2023 water quality sampling program has

successfully collected four out of six planned samples, with the August sampling set to occur this week, and the final sampling scheduled for October. Due to the substantial snowpack this year, there has been a significant increase in sample collection, which hasn't been observed in several years. The arsenic levels collected on Slate River this year ranged from 1.5 to 1.6 ug/L. In the case of East River below Cement Creek, the arsenic level ranged between 0.5 and 1.2 ug/L, while the East River at Almont showed arsenic levels ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 ug/L. For Ohio Creek, arsenic levels were in the range of 0.4 to 0.6 ug/L, Marshall Creek ranged from 0.3 to 0.8 ug/L, and Tomichi Creek had the highest arsenic levels, which were between 1.9 and 2.2 ug/L. It's important to note that all these detected levels are significantly higher than the National Water Quality Lab regulation detection level of 0.03 ug/L. The National Water Quality Lab standard for uranium levels falls within the range of 16.8 to 30 ug/L. In the case of Marshall Creek, the detected unfiltered uranium levels ranged from 17 to 42 ug/L, indicating levels that exceed the standard. Regarding unfiltered aluminum levels, at Marshall Creek, they ranged from 100 to 1400 ug/L, and for Tomichi Creek, they were between 50 and 1000 ug/L.

The water quality data observations for copper filtered sites (Fig. 1) and lead filtered sites (Fig. 2) are shown below.

Figure 1:

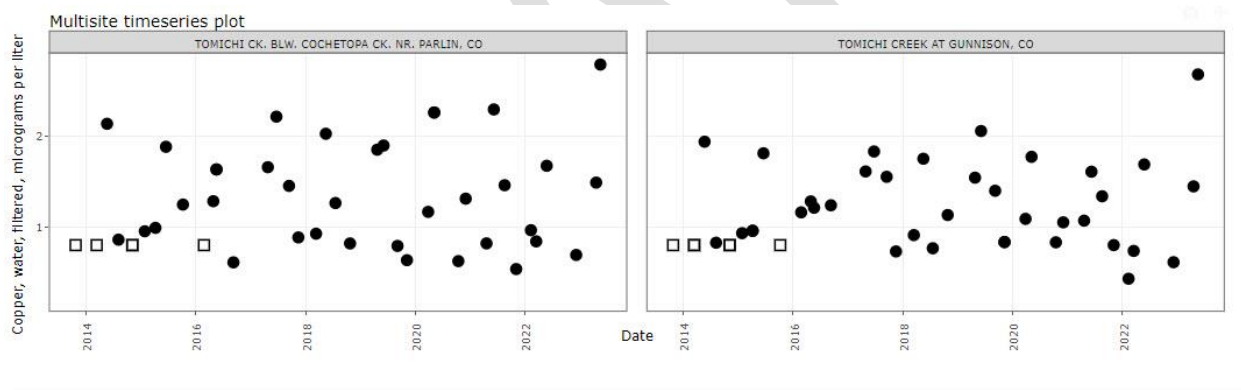
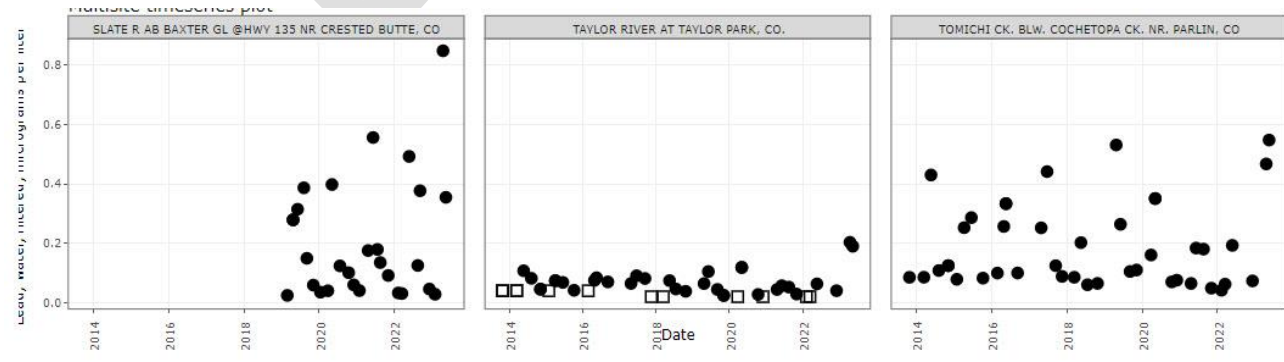


Figure 2:



Sonja Chavez mentions to the group that Ashley has organized a tour up at the pitch mine site for September 21st. If a member from USGS would like to join she would be happy to ask Ashley if they could join.

Julie Nania asked for clarification on the Coal Creek temp mods. She said right now they are just down to cadmium seasonal temp. mod for aquatic life standards which is a big progress over the last decade, and she knows a lot of people in this meeting have been involved with it.

Trisha Solberg provides additional updates to Regulation 35. These updates include revisions to the total nitrogen and phosphorus standards for lakes and reservoirs. Furthermore, chlorophyll A standards have been expanded across all segments, including aquatic life, recreation, and domestic use of water supply (DUWS). Trisha Solberg provides information on the real-time water quality program. The UGRWCD has generously funded numerous water temperature sensors over the years. These sensors, along with specific conductance parameters, have been installed at various locations, including Slate River, Taylor River at Taylor Park, Taylor River at Almont, East River, Gunnison River, Tomichi Creek, and Lakefork sites. The parameters at these sites are monitored seasonally, from May through October.

For monitoring compliance, the CDPHE (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment) defines water temperature standards using two key metrics:

- "Daily Maximum Temperature (DM)" refers to the highest two-hour average water temperature recorded during a 24-hour period.
- "Maximum Weekly Average Temperature (MWAT)" signifies the largest weekly average temperature within the specified period of interest.

Trisha Solberg gives an overview of ongoing water observing systems in the Upper Gunnison Basin. The discrete water quality sampling includes activities such as surface water aging, groundwater baseflow and agal studies in Blue Mesa Reservoir. There are non-contact surface water stations going on and there will be two snow sites installed this fall. There will also be a NGWOS UCOL update hybrid meeting on September 28th.

Steve Anders mentions that it could be a good idea to add additional sensors to the continued sites around the Upper Gunnison Basin to capture more accurate water sampling data during drought years.

Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned by Sonja Chavez at 12:15pm.

MEMORANDUM



TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors
FROM: Alana Nichols, Water Resources Fellow
DATE: September 15, 2023
SUBJECT: Drought Contingency Plan

The following is a brief summary of the first meeting of the Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) Task Force, which took place on Friday, September 8th, 2023, at the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy Office.

Attendance: Approximately 16 Task Force members

Task Force Overview: The DCP Task Force comprises a diverse and highly knowledgeable group of water managers and water users, each bringing technical expertise to the table. This group has a specific focus on the challenges within the Upper Gunnison Basin Watershed.

Meeting Agenda: The two-hour meeting encompassed the following key agenda items:

1. **Introductions:** Members had the opportunity to introduce themselves and establish connections within the Task Force.
2. **DCP Overview:** A comprehensive overview of the DCP process was provided, setting the stage for our collective efforts.
3. **Task Force Roles:** The meeting clarified the crucial roles that Task Force members will play throughout the DCP process.
4. **Water Resource Challenges:** Erin Wilson delivered an in-depth presentation addressing the water resource challenges facing the Gunnison Basin.
5. **Stakeholder Engagement Plan:** Valuable input was gathered to inform the development of a stakeholder engagement plan.

Task Force Responsibilities: The Task Force will play a pivotal role in:

- Developing the scope of work and a comprehensive plan for the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.
- Contributing to outreach efforts aimed at gathering input from a broad spectrum of representatives and stakeholders.

Consultants: We are fortunate to have two experienced consultants leading the DCP initiative:

- **Carrie Padgett:** Carrie brings prior experience with DCP initiatives, offering valuable insights.
- **Stacy Beaugh:** Stacy, a natural resources professional and skilled facilitator, ensures the process proceeds with precision and expertise.

The Task Force meeting has established a strong foundation for our collective journey towards enhancing the resiliency of water resources in the Upper Gunnison Basin. The combination of expertise, diversity, and commitment within this group bodes well for the success of drought management.

MINUTES

TO: Watershed Management Planning Committee

FROM: Alana Nichols, Water Resources Fellow

DATE: September 12, 2023

SUBJECT: Watershed Management Planning (WMP) Committee Meeting

A meeting of the committee was held on September 12, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania, Mike Rogers, Nancy Johnston-Bramlett (CTU), Katie Jagt, Lucy Harrington, Jesse Kruthaupt and UGRWCD Staff: Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, Cheryl Cwelich, Alana Nichols, Ari Yamaguchi and Sue Uerling were in attendance.

Agenda topics included WMP wetlands study update, geo-fluvial assessment phase 2 update, final WMP Phase 2 report compilation, development outreach plans, development of WMP and action plans.

As a result of these discussions the following action and discussion items were identified.

Action and Discussion Items:

- Nancy Johnston will continue to compile WMP Phase 2 report. To ensure effective coordination, a brief meeting is scheduled for next week, during which the staff will thoroughly review the remaining tasks and necessary actions. Nancy will share her current progress with Beverly Richards, allowing her to provide feedback and assistance.
- Staff will ensure that the WMP serves as an adaptive management plan for long-term strategic planning.
- Staff will develop a user-friendly WMP document that integrates visuals and maps for enhanced communication. The simplified structure for the WMP document will consist of three sections: Overview, Analysis, and Action Plan, with opportunities for public input.
- The outreach plan will kick off during the winter months to maximize participation and gather valuable input from stakeholders on response and action plans.

Next Meeting

Watershed Management Planning Committee – October 11, 2023 – 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm by Stacy McPhail

MEMORANDUM



TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors
FROM: Cheryl Cwelich, Water Resource Specialist
DATE: September 15, 2023
SUBJECT: Wet Meadows Program Update (September)

During the month of September, the following activities have commenced or been completed in the Gunnison Basin Wet Meadows & Riparian Restoration Collaborative (GBWMRRC):

Notable Activities Completed or in Progress:

- 2023 Field Season Updates:
 - After finishing a demanding month in August implementing over 70 restoration structures and assisting Watershed Management Planning (WMP) contractor GEI Inc., with over 135 basin-wide wetland assessments, the sagebrush steppe and wet meadows conservation crew have been working closely with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representative Brian Stevens and Habitat Restoration & Cheatgrass Coordinator Petar Simic on the following:
 - Juniper removal in Dry Gulch and cheatgrass treatments in Cochetopa Canyon, Rock Creek and Sapinero Mesa.
 - Conducted high-priority spring assessments on BLM land.
 - Assisted Colorado Parks & Wildlife with doing prairie dog vaccinations via application of food-flavored baits at Gunnison State Wildlife Area (SWA), Cochetopa Park BLM colony and a private ranch up the Ohio Creek valley.
 - Completed maintenance on restoration structures at Sagehen Gulch, Chance Gulch, Long Gulch and Sapinero Mesa.
- Outreach & Education:
 - The Coordinator has been meeting with members from Western Landowners Association, Smith Fork Watershed, and Estes Park volunteers throughout August and September to present and provide best practices for wet meadow restoration.
 - Throughout August and September, the Coordinator has been meeting with Western Colorado University master's students and the new Dean of the Clark School of Environment & Sustainability to discuss the wet meadows program and best ways for collaboration and next steps for research projects.
 - On September 10th, the Coordinator attended The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Board of Trustees dinner to discuss next steps for TNC with the wet meadows program, along with advocating for assistance with completing programmatic NEPA with the USFS and BLM for wet meadows work as well as a local hydrologist at the Gunnison USFS office and assistance for the Ute Mountain Ute in applying for water rights on springs at Pinecrest Ranch.

- On September 13th, the Coordinator, along with the Habitat Restoration & Cheatgrass Coordinator, provided a tour of a wet meadow project at Miller Ranch State Wildlife Area (SWA) to Gunnison middle-school and high-school students.
- Grant & Funding Opportunities:
 - The District is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Gunnison Field Office to potentially create another funding agreement of ~\$300,000. This funding would help to support the Habitat Restoration & Cheatgrass Coordinator contracted by the County. Contracted work would be specific to help with projects that direct water off of backcountry roads, decommission low-standard roads and also support grant writing and administration for the position.
- Research:
 - Staff met with the U.S. Forest Service Gunnison District Ranger, Dayle Funka, and Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory's Senior Scientist, Ken Williams, on Friday, September 15th to discuss ongoing research and other research opportunities in Taylor Park.
 -
- Other:
 - Updates on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Gunnison Sage-grouse (GUSG) Draft Resource Management Plan Assessment/Environmental Impact Statement (RMPA/EIS):
 - The BLM met with Cooperating Agencies on September 14, 2023 to provide updates on next steps and discuss how comments were received and incorporated/addressed in the draft RMP Amendment/EIS (version 2).
 - The Department of Interior (DOI) regional Solicitor has reviewed the administrative draft RMP Amendment/EIS (version 3).
 - The BLM national program leads are in process of reviewing the administrative draft RMP Amendment/EIS (version 4).
 - The BLM will be working with a contractor on updates to the administrative draft RMP Amendment/EIS (version 5).
 - The BLM will brief the Department of Interior NEPA Review Team in October of 2023.
 - The release of the draft RMP Amendment/EIS for public review is anticipated to be on November 10, 2023.
 - The next Coopering Agency meeting is TBD.



Memorandum

TO: UGRWCD Education & Outreach Committee

FROM: Sue Uerling, Administrative Assistant/Communications Support Specialist

DATE: September 15, 2023

SUBJECT: Update on Activities and Budget Recommendation

- Attached to this Memorandum are the **Minutes from the August 31, 2023 Education and Outreach Committee meeting.**
- Also attached to this Memorandum is the **Strategic Action plan proposed for 2024,** which includes columns for the 2023 Strategic Action plan items and the funds spent to date on the activities listed.

CHAIR MIKE ROGERS RECOMMENDATION: On behalf of the Education and Outreach Committee, **Chair Mike Rogers is recommending an amount of \$61,485 be included in the proposed 2024 draft budget for Education and Outreach activities.**

Since the meeting was held on August 31, 2023, the following 2023 action items have transpired or been completed:

- 100 eighth graders participated in the Taylor Challenge and utilized the water test kits that were provided by the District. The District also provided \$2,000 towards scholarships, as many students are unable to cover the \$120 fee required by the school system, which only partially covers the school's expenses for Taylor Challenge. In addition, the District gave water bottles, stickers, and water conservation rack cards to the students and held a watershed trivia contest with Germaine's gift cards for the winners.
- Staff received confirmation that two groups from Lake City School will be participating in the RMBL field trips on September 29, 2023. Several of the third and fifth grade classes from Gunnison and Crested Butte held their field trips this past week and more are scheduled for the last two weeks of September.
- 200 reusable shopping bags with the "Save Me" logo were delivered from Pat's Screen Printing. One is provided for each Board member. Thanks for using them!



MINUTES

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE AUGUST 31, 2023 AT 1:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Education and Outreach Committee was held on August 31, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Sonja Chavez, Cheryl Cwelich, Stacy McPhail, Bill Nesbitt, Alana Nichols, Beverly Richards, Mike Rogers, Sue Uerling and Ari Yamaguchi were in attendance. Joellen Fonken and Rosemary Carroll attended by Zoom video conference.

Agenda topics included selecting a chair of the Education and Outreach Committee; review of the 2023 education and outreach action plan and budget expenditures to date; and, discussion of the proposed 2024 action plan and budget. As a result of these discussions, the following action and budget items were identified:

Discussion and Action Items

- Mike Rogers was unanimously elected to chair the committee.
- Advertising expenditures are over budget in 2023 due to some display ads that ran in all papers for soliciting Board representatives and a TLUG homeowners' representative, as well as some Gunnison River Festival ads. In 2024, all Gunnison River Festival expenses will be allocated to a separate line item in the budget outside of the Education and Outreach category and the legal/business ads will be allocated to other operational expenses.
- Staff will check on a second river clean-up for fall 2023 and add ditch clean-up for 2024, possibly separate from the Community Clean-up Day
- Staff is still trying to facilitate a field trip to RMBL for Lake City School students. Sue is awaiting a response to an email she sent to the Lake City School office manager, who was to forward the email to all teachers. There was also discussion about adding another field trip in 2024 utilizing Nordic skiing.
- An additional line item was added for 2024 to professionally paint the water trailer. It was discussed that the District could reach out to the other sponsors of the water trailer to have them help share the cost. For now, \$2,500 was allocated in the budget, which was the quote given by Buff's Collision to paint the trailer.
- There was discussion about the UGRWCD celebrating its 65th Anniversary in 2024. A line item has been designated for funding within the Education and Outlook budget and ideas were brainstormed for ways to celebrate including: (a) display ads (perhaps quarterly) in the newspapers that outline some of the historical achievements of the District; (b) an Anniversary Open House for all ages in June 2024 (in conjunction with the annual meeting), which would include a barbecue, music, games, etc. in the District parking lot; (c) Joining the Chambers of Commerce both in Gunnison and CB and doing a "Business After Hours/Ribbon Cutting" when Suite A is open for business; (d) additional radio and newspaper advertising, including Western's

radio station and campus newspaper, to publicize all of these special events and the history; (e) become a Dos Rios Golf Club irrigation sponsor with anniversary banners on the holes; (f) promotional items with a specially-designed anniversary logo that could be used on banners, flags, and perhaps collectible items like mugs, coins, coasters, etc. and (g) a party with a live band, perhaps at the I-Bar, with education announcements throughout the night during the band's breaks. Ideas will continue to be brainstormed and discussed with a project list finalized in time to kick-off in January 2024.

- Director Nesbitt suggested that the District also hold a Board/Staff Retreat in 2024. Discussion followed that a retreat may work best held in the late fall or winter after the busy summer season. (Note – expenses for a Board/Staff Retreat would not come from the Education and Outreach budget.)

After making some adjustments to the proposed Education and Outreach expenditures for 2024, as of the meeting date, the proposed figure to add to the general budget for Education and Outreach purposes is \$61,485. The budgeted amount for 2023 was \$61,680 and it is estimated that \$16,100 of this will be unused and available to roll over for 2024.

Director Bill Nesbitt expressed concerns that the Education and Outreach and overall budget has increased significantly during his tenure on the Board and wondered if the District is spending too much. Director Stacy McPhail replied that she has “no concerns” about the dollars allocated for education and outreach and noted that especially during these times when the general public are more confused and alarmed than ever about water issues that the District needs to do more to get out its mission and messages. Director Rosemary Carroll agreed saying she is also not concerned about the expenditures and noted that she feels the District is utilizing these funds responsibly. It was also pointed out that all expenditures are approved by the Board of Directors and that the District is now bringing in much more income.

There was discussion that the District will take every advantage of free press during its anniversary year and that any significant changes to the proposed figures in the budget will be brought before the committee for consideration and another meeting can be held if necessary.

Next Meeting: TBD

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

2024 Education and Outreach Action Plan - Draft
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

		UG 2023 Budget = \$59,930						
EDUCATIONAL FOCUS AREA	UPPER GUNNISON (\$)	Actual Amount To date	Amount Remaining	Proposed for 2024	Comments	COMMITTEE LEAD	# Individuals Reached	SC Comments
Annual On-Going								
Advertising (Radio) (Maybe year round on other stations) (includes radio in Lake City)	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,425	\$ 1,075	\$ 2,500	Total budgeted amount for Radio Advertising - Total does not include KBUT Uunderwiritng or KVNF	Team	2500	Include Anniversary Ads for 2024
Advertising (Newsprint)						Team		
CB News	\$ 1,500	\$ 889	\$ 611	\$ 2,500			500	Increase for Anniversary Ads in 2024
GC Times	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,071	\$ 1,571	\$ 3,500			1500	This was due to TLUG/Grants Ads
GCT Ad - 4H Ag Winners	\$ 160	\$ 180	\$ 20	\$ 200	Done around Cattlemen's Days		1500	
Silver World	\$ 1,040	\$ 1,011	\$ 29	\$ 1,200	Weekly water report coninues in Silverworld paper		100	Options are limited with this paper, kept it going to keep contact open and ad in this paper is way more visible
KBUT Underwriting	\$ 2,160	\$ 2,160	\$ -	\$ 2,400			500	
KVNF - Public Radio Summer Only	\$ 520	\$ -	\$ 520	\$ 700	\$520 is for 13 weeks - 1 spot per day (5 days a week) \$182 for 13 weeks - 1 spot per day (weekends only) Could use for 65th Anniversary advertising			
Sub-Total Radio and Newspaper	\$ 9,380	\$ 8,736	\$ 3,826	\$ 13,000				
Gunnison River Festival	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 1,000	move to line item	Suggestion is to move this out of Education and Outreach and just do as a sponsorship	Cheryl and Intern	1500	Move to separate line item in 2024
Mini-Grants (Includes marketing of program)	\$ 2,500	\$ 500	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	To promote the program consider increasing grants to \$500. This could include advertising in newspaper to promote	Bev/Sue	200	There are 3 outstanding Mini-Grants yet to be paid this year - CB Climate Kids, Coal Creek WAG Bags and Whitewater Park signs-all \$500
Water Message Promotional Items	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,306	\$ (306)	\$ 8,500	Could use promotional items for AgVenture, River Clean Up, Taylor Challenge, RMBL tour, and science classes. Total included Upper Gunnison T-shirts	Team	500	Could produce 65th anniversary logo for specialty items. Coffee Cups or other collectible items
Mayors & Managers	\$ 300	\$ 265	\$ 35	\$ 300		Sonja	20	
Sub-total Miscellaneous On-going:	\$ 20,800	\$ 20,071	\$ 2,729	\$ 11,800				
General Public Outreach								
Sponsorship of Water Groups/Events in Upper Gunnison (includes 2 fishing tournaments)	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,000	Do \$1,000 each for Blue Mesa Tournament and Taylor Reservoir fishing tournament in 2024	Team	400	Rotary is considering doing the Blue Mesa Tournament again in 2024 so I would like to sponsor both for \$1000
River Clean Up Program - (separate from Community Clean-Up, possibly again in the Fall - premiere sponsorship event - Whitewater Park)	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,500	2023 UG participation was well received by City, but not many participants - just do River Clean up separately in 2023 using Gunnison Waves. Community Ditch and River Clean Up	Team	300	Actual expenditures were \$1,000, may need to increase if numbers increase and including Fall cleanup Gunnison Waves talked about doing another clean-up in Sept-October so we could support them with \$500? Add ditch clean-up

65th Anniversary Celebration	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	This will include logo design, speaker and speaker expenses, promotional items, barbecue, advertising and flags/banners			Get input of ideas from committee
Crested Butte Public Forum	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ 750	Sponsorship \$500 plus funds for refreshments - as long as there is a water focus		300	Interested to see how many people attend. (250+) CB Center for the Arts was almost full and we got a good plug at the reception and presentation)
Total General Public Outreach:	\$ 18,750	\$ 2,750	\$ 16,000	\$ 19,250				
Local School Involvement								
Swimming Classes (Ongoing)	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ 750		Bill	400	
Water Book - GES, CBES, LCES 1st Grade - New Books at \$10.99	\$ 500	\$ 491	\$ 9	\$ 2,000	We ordered enough for two years but could need more if necessary - Will need to increase for 2024 Budget	Bill/Sue	165	
RMBL Science Class Tour	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000	Covers buses for schools and supports supplies and programming, increased to include Lake City in 2024	Team	120	Really going to push to get Lake City there and would like to increase supplies. Maybe add skiing with Gunnison Nordic - water education
Taylor Challenge (Water education, scholarships, general sponsorship)	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,500	Since their costs increased dramatically in 2023, we increased the amount for 2024	Team	100	Increased expenses in 2024?
Science Water Classes (supplies or board/staff involvement, sponsorship to Youth Water Summit)	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 2,250	Coordinate with Krystal Brown and Renee Brekke for xeriscaping and weather laboratory	Team	100	
Intern - Fall and Spring	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	Would like Western Communications Student to continue social media work done in 2022. Two interns one in January and one in September	Sue/Bev	500	For 2023 I'm not sure how Alana's time was catergorized? Do we add more time or amount? Maybe add bonus if they complete. Look at this item additonally.
Total Local School Involvement:	\$ 8,750	\$ 7,741	\$ 9	\$ 12,500				
Other Sponsorships								
Cattlemen's Days Sponsorship at 4H Luncheon (Hannah Cranor)	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	Cattlemens Days Event	Sue/Sonja	500	
4H Sponsorship - Environmental Focus - curriculum (Perri Pelletier/Hannah Cranor)	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	Cattlemens Days Event	Sue/Stacy	25	With the change from Eric McPhail to Hannah Cranor this year, this did not happen in 2023. Talk to Hannah about opportunities?
AgVenture (Stacy McPhail)	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250		Team	750	
Total Other Sponsorships:	\$ 1,250	\$ 750	\$ 500	\$ 1,250				
Miscellaneous								
Water Trailer Annual Maintenance	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 2,500	Use of water trailer has increased; paint is in awful condition so 2024 amount includes professional painting		500	Dan Buffington will provide us with a quote from Buff's Collision to paint the trailer professionally.
Gunnison and CB Chamber of Commerce Memberships	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 685	For 2024, utilize Chamber benefits to celebrate 65th Anniversary		1,000	Not included in 2023 budget - use in 2024 to focus on 65th Anniversary. Chamber newsletter reach so many people.
Social Media, Newsletter and Website updates	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	Including \$500 in 2024 to cover design expenses with Midnight Marketing		6000	Current post impressions for FB are averaging about 100-150 per post plus Instagram and Twitter

Total Miscellaneous: \$		500	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 3,685			
GRAND TOTAL: \$		59,430	\$ 40,048	\$ 23,564	\$ 61,485		19,980	
Proposed Amount for 2024 Budget	\$	61,485						
Amount included in 2023 Budget	\$	61,680						
Remaining funds to date in 2023	\$	21,632						
Estimated Rollover for 2024	\$	16,100						

MINUTES
Taylor Local Users Group
September 8th, 2023

TLUG Attendees:

TLUG Representatives Present:

Mark Schumacher (Boating Interests)
David Fisher (Property Owners)
Roark Kiklevich (Wade Fishing Interests)
Andy Spann (Agriculture Interests -via Zoom)
Ernie Cockrell (Taylor Placer - via Zoom)
Ryan Birdsey (Flatwater Recreation Interests -via Zoom)

Others in Person:

Rory Birdsey (Taylor Park Marina)
Sonja Chavez (UGRWCD)
Sue Uerling (UGRWCD)
Alana Nichols (UGRWCD)

By Zoom:

Doug Forshagen (Crystal Creek Homeowners)
Dustin Brown (Scenic River Tours)
Sean Slattery (Irwin Guides)

I. Introductions & Approval of Minutes:

Sonja Chavez called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. She informed the TLUG group that Chairman Don Sabrowski and Erik Knight were unable to attend the meeting today. Sonja Chavez asked the TLUG if there were any requested changes to the August 8th, 2023, meeting minutes. There was no discussion or changes for the August 8th meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. CBRFC Water Supply Update and USBR Model Forecast:

Erik Knight was unable to attend the meeting, however he provided a written update to accompany the September Taylor Operations Report. The actual August 2023 inflow came in at approximately 500 acre-feet lower than the forecast at mid-month. The September 2023 inflow forecast has also decreased by 500 acre-feet from the August mid-month forecast. The current inflows are around 100 cfs and current releases are just under 300 cfs. The 300 cfs release rate is scheduled to continue through the end of September. In order to achieve the end of year storage objective of 75,000 acre-feet, release adjustments need to be made . Erik recommends starting the decrease of releases to 200 cfs one week earlier. In addition, Erik recommends ramping down from 200 cfs to 100 cfs (winter flow rate) four days earlier in October from the 15th to the 12th (25 cfs

decrease per day). With these adjustments, the October 31st end of year storage content is projected to be 75,400 acre-feet.

III. Preliminary TLUG Draft Operational Recommendations:

Sonja Chavez asked the Board if they had any recommendations based on Erik Knight's recommended adjustments to the model forecast.

Mark Schumacher, Roark Kiklevich and David Fisher all agreed with Erik Knight's recommendations. Ryan Birdsey was having some issues with Zoom, but noted in the chat box that he, too, agreed with Erik Knight's recommendations.

Ernie Cockrell noted that he is concerned with the continued decreasing trend in the forecast models. He recommended dropping another 25 cfs daily beginning in the middle of September, which would leave an extra 1,000 cfs to work with. He thinks it would be wise to have some extra cushion to go into the winter with more in storage than 75,000 acre-feet.

Sonja Chavez noted that the final flow recommendation presented to Erik Knight is based on the consensus of the group. Sonja was concerned about moving forward without having Andy Spann on the meeting to provide input for the agricultural community. (Andy was having issues connecting via Zoom.) Sonja noted that she thinks there is time to wait for the mid-month forecast, which should come out in less than two weeks, allowing the group to make additional adjustments then if needed.

Mark Schumacher reported that all of the rafters are planning to continue operations through the end of September.

Ernie Cockrell said there was a significant amount of water released during the summertime and he had suggested several times that more water be held back for storage. He said he is trying not to be insensitive to other user's needs, but he does think it's important to have a buffer of more than 75,000 acre-feet of storage during a wet year.

Sonja Chavez asked for a motion on Erik Knight's recommendation.

Mark Schumacher motioned to approve the flows as recommended by Erik Knight.

Roark Kiklevich seconded this motion. Sonja called for a vote and the motion carried, with Ernie Cockrell opposing.

Sonja Chavez noted that she would reach out to the TLUG after the mid-September forecast comes out, if additional adjustments were needed.

Mark Schumacher asked about the accuracy of the controlled releases. Sonja Chavez replied that the release levels could vary by 3-5 cfs. Mark stated that he believes the accuracy could be off by as much as 10-15 cfs which could require additional adjustments earlier. Rory Birdsey said it sometimes takes dam operator Bill Gallenbeck

three to four days to adjust the releases to the recommended level. Rory said that Bill will be gone for the next three to four weeks.

Sonja Chavez said she'll reach out to BOR and Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association to make them aware that an adjustment to the forecast might be required in mid-September while Bill is gone.

Andy Spann was finally able to join the meeting via Zoom and Sonja Chavez informed him about Ernie Cockrell's suggestion to hold back the releases a little early to allow for a storage buffer and about the motion that was made and approved by the other TLUG members.

Andy said that he was in agreement with the motion to proceed with Erik Knight's recommended flow schedule. Andy believes there is time before the end of the month to make adjustments if necessary. He noted that as the hay meadows are being cut, they can use a little extra water before headgates are shut off.

Ernie Cockrell asked Sonja when the mid-month report might be available. It was noted that the 15th of the month is a Friday, so the report likely would not be released until the middle of the following week. Sonja Chavez suggested Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at noon for the next meeting, if necessary, depending on whether the forecast changes much from the September 1st report. Sonja asked if this meeting could be held by Zoom only and the TLUG members agreed.

IV. Miscellaneous Updates:

Sonja Chavez informed the group that Becky Mitchell, the state of Colorado's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission, came to the UGRWCD Board of Directors meeting on August 28th and noted that it was a good opportunity to visit with her about current water resource issues. Sonja reported there is a new Executive Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Lauren Ris.

The Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) process began this morning with a kick-off Task Force meeting. The Task Force is a diverse group with technical expertise. The Task Force will assist in developing the scope of work and a plan for carrying out the DCP. They will also contribute to outreach efforts, gathering input from representatives and stakeholders. The consultants working on the DCP include Carrie Padgett, who has prior experience with DCP, and Stacy Beaugh, a natural resources professional facilitator.

Sonja asked if anyone attending from the public had any comments. None were made.

David Gochis from the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research was on the line and he provided a brief recap of the final WRF-Hydro Taylor Reservoir April-July inflow forecast. His model showed inflows of 118.3 kaf, which was just slightly higher than the observed amount of 118.0 kaf. The current WRF-Hydro April-October inflow forecast, stands at 129,300 acre-feet, but the BOR record anticipates another 1,000 AF will flow

into Taylor. The Taylor River above Taylor Reservoir contributed 57 percent of the total inflow to Taylor Reservoir. The soil moisture trends show a strong depletion due to the lack of a monsoon season. According to the model, the soil moisture is lower now than it was at the start of November 2022. He does believe the groundwater did get a good recharge this year. He will provide a full season summary at the end of September.

Sonja Chavez asked if Dave Gochis could present the WRF-Hydro forecast to the UGRWCD Board of Directors at the September 25th Board meeting and he agreed.

V. Adjournment:

This meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m. by Sonja Chavez.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Scientific Endeavors

AGENDA ITEM 9

Gunnison Basin Roundtable Update

AGENDA ITEM 10

Miscellaneous Matters

Daily Summary for Month --> **Sep**

		Taylor Park Reservoir						Silver Jack Reservoir				Aspinall Unit				GUNNISON TUNNEL ALLOCATION																					
		River Call		Average Flow		Reservoir		1st Fill	2nd Fill	Other	Aspinall	Reservoir		BP Acct	AU Acct	Reservoir Contents			Total Aspinall Unit Inflow			1st Fill	Contract	Streamflow and Divs		Type of Water Diverted into Tunnel							Tot 1st fill				
Day of Month		Silver Jack Reservoir & Juniors In Priority (1=Yes, 0=No)	TP Releases from TP 1st Fill (1=Yes, 0=No)	Excess Released TP Inflow and AU Nat Inflow (cfs)	Tunnel (GT) Shortage after AU Nat Inflow and TP Inflow (cfs)	3-Day Average Excess TP Inflow and AU Nat Inflow (cfs)	3-Day Ave. GT Shortage after AU Nat Inflow and TP Inflow (cfs)	TP Res. Content (af)	USGS outflow (cfs)	TP Compute d Inflow (cfs)	1st Fill - Storage in TP (af)	2nd Fill - Storage in TP (af)	Other Account - Storage in TP - (af)	AU Storag e in TP (af)	SJ Res Content (af)	Reservoir Storage (cfs)	BP - Storage - in SJ (af)	Water - Storage - in SJ (af)	BM Res Content (af)	MP Res Content (af)	CR Res Content (af)	AU Change In Storage (af)	Computed rel from CR (cfs)	AU inflow below TP & with AU Aug Rel (cfs)	#REF!	UGRWC D Contract water (af)	Gun. River below East Portal (cfs)	Total Gunnison Tunnel Divs (cfs)	GT Divs - AU inflow minus TP released (cfs)	GT Divs - TP Released Inflow (cfs)	GT Divs - SJ Storage Inflow by AU Exch (cfs)	UGRWC D Contract Water Rel (cfs)	GT Divs - Rel from 2nd Fill Rec/Fish (cfs)	GT Divs - 1st Fill BM Credit in (cfs)	#REF!	Remain. 1st Fill Credits in TP and AU (af)	
		(2)	(3)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(11)	(14)	(15)	(19)	(25)	(30)	(34)	(36)	(39)	(43)	(47)	(49)	(77)	(100)	(124)	(125)	(127)	#REF!	#REF!	(128)	(131)	(132)	(133)	(134)	(135)	(136)	(137)	#REF!	(140)	
1		1	1					86,380	304	113				5,078	0	5,078	0		110,894	16,385		1,789					713	1,076			0	0					
2		1	1					85,982	297	106				4,858	0	4,858	0		111,429	15,749		1,798					712	1,086			0	0					
3		1	1					85,602	296	114				4,637	0	4,637	0		110,571	15,644		1,798					712	1,086			0	0					
4		1	1					85,204	295	104				4,417	0	4,417	0		110,352	15,897		1,797					711	1,086			0	0					
5		1	1					84,793	295	97				4,194	0	4,194	0	685,134	111,035	15,985		1,798					712	1,086			0	0					
6		1	1	593	0			84,346	294	79				3,967	0	3,967	0	685,134	110,965	16,100	44	1,798	1,600				712	1,086	1,086	0	0	0	0				
7		1	1	600	0			83,935	294	97				3,754	0	3,754	0	685,134	110,949	16,137	22	1,798	1,589				712	1,086	1,086	0	0	0	0				
8		1	1	628	0	607	0	83,507	293	87				3,533	0	3,533	0	685,134	111,154	16,028	95	1,780	1,609				712	1,068	1,068	0	0	0	0				
9		1	1	588	0	605	0	83,082	292	87				3,306	0	3,306	0	685,134	111,201	15,997	16	1,754	1,544				711	1,043	1,043	0	0	0	0				
10		1	1	601	0	606	0	82,658	292	88				3,072	0	3,072	0	685,134	111,209	16,028	39	1,756	1,558				711	1,045	1,045	0	0	0	0				
11		1	1	677	0	622	0	82,288	292	115				2,858	0	2,858	0	685,134	111,295	16,077	135	1,758	1,608				712	1,046	1,046	0	0	0	0				
12		1	1	755	0	678	0	81,883	291	96				2,631	0	2,631	0	685,134	111,532	16,166	326	1,760	1,708				711	1,049	1,049	0	0	0	0				
13		1	1	0	264	477	88	81,461	291	88				2,415	0	2,415	0	685,134	109,617	16,400	-1,681	1,763	699				712	1,051	699	88	0	0	0				
14		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
15		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
16		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
17		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
18		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
19		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
20		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
21		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
22		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
23		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
24		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
25		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
26		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
27		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
28		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
29		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
30		1	1						0													0						0	0			0					
31																																					
Total		30	30	4,442	264	3,595	88	3,826	1,272					0								-1,004	23,149	11,915				9,253	13,896	8,122	88	0	0	0	0	0	
Tot (af)				8,810	524	7,131	175	7,589	2,522					0								-1,991	45,915	23,634				18,353	27,562	16,110	175	0	0	0	0	0	
Min		1	1	0	0	477	0	81,461	0	79	0	0	0	0	2,415	0	2,415	0	685,134	109,617	15,644	-1,681	0	699		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Max		1	1	755	264	678	88	86,380	304	115	0	0	0	0	5,078	0	5,078	0	685,134	111,532	16,400	326	1,798	1,708		0	0	713	1,086	1,086	88	0	0	0	0	0	

Annual Summary (all values in ac-ft) Note: Reservoir content is the end of the month content

[illegible]

AGENDA ITEM 10

Interest in CRWUA Conference - Dec. 12-15, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 11

Citizen Comments

AGENDA ITEM 12

Future Meetings

FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- ▶ Watershed Management Planning Meeting - October 11, 2023 at 1:30 PM
- ▶ UGRWCD Board Meeting - October 23, 2023 at 5:30 PM
- ▶ Thanksgiving Holiday - Offices Closed - November 26 and 27, 2023
- ▶ UGRWCD Board Meeting - November 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Board Meeting (Budget) - December 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ CRWUA Conference in Las Vegas, NV - December 12-15, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 13

Summary of Action Items

AGENDA ITEM 14

Adjournment