



Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS **AGENDA – REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Monday, October 28, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

210 West Spencer, Suite A, Gunnison

Zoom Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vc--qqDorGdS-HfZHkKnHatwRLr_nZd8u

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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| 5:00 p.m. | Dinner Served |
| 5:30 p.m. | 1. Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Projects Manager |
| 5:31 p.m. | 2. Agenda Approval |
| 5:33 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 September 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes• Monthly Budget Summary• Consideration of Expenses |
| 5:35 p.m. | 4. General Counsel Update |
| 5:45 p.m. | 5. Presentation by Jean Vieux, Applied Research Team, on Mapping Snow Water Equivalent with Weather Radar |
| 6:10 p.m. | 6. 2025 Draft Budget Work Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025 Draft Budget Message• Review of 2025 Revised Draft Budget |
| 6:30 p.m. | 7. Basin Water Supply Update |

- 6:40 p.m. 8. General Manager, Staff and Committee Updates**
- Executive Committee Meeting Summary
 - Treasurer's Report
 - General Manager Report
 - Projects & Fundraising
 - Watershed Management Planning
 - Wetland Assessment Report Review
 - WQCD Regulation 87 Update: Dredge & Fill Stream Mitigation Workshop
 - Wet Meadows Program
 - Request for Action: Hire two seasonal interns/techs
 - Discussion: Purchase of UTV
 - Drought Contingency Planning Update
 - Education and Outreach Update
 - Scientific Endeavors
- 7:30 p.m. 9. Miscellaneous Matters**
- UGRWCD Board and Staff Holiday Party to be held immediately following November 25, 2024 Board Meeting
- 7:35 p.m. 10. Citizens Comments**
- 7:40 p.m. 11. Future Meetings**
- 7:45 p.m. 12. Summary of Meeting Action Items**
- 7:50 p.m. 13. Adjournment**

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

AGENDA ITEM 3

Consent Agenda Items

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors
Monday, September 23, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) conducted a regular Board meeting on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, 210 West Spencer, Suite A, Gunnison, Colorado and via Zoom video/teleconference.

Board members present: Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania, Rosemary Carroll (via Zoom), John Perusek, Andy Spann and Brooke Zanetell.

Board members absent: Mike Rogers and Don Sabrowski

Others present:

Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager

John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel

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

Alana Nichols, UGRWCD Fellow

Cole Osborne, North American Weather Consultants (via Zoom)

Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Office/Senior Program Manager

Robert Sakata, Ag Water Policy Advisor, Colorado Department of Agriculture (via Zoom)

Jared Smith, North American Weather Consultants (via Zoom)

Sue Uerling, UGRWCD Administrative Asst./Communications Specialist

Ari Yamaguchi, UGRWCD Water Resources Technician

Amanda Aulenbach, UGRWCD Wet Meadows Program Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

General Manager Sonja Chavez introduced Amanda Aulenbach as the new Wet Meadows Restoration Program Coordinator and Bailey Friedman as the new Water Resources Project Manager. Amanda began her duties at the end of August and Bailey will begin next week.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Director Rebie Hazard and Director John Perusek seconded approval of the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Director John Perusek moved and Director Rebie Hazard seconded approval of the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.

4. 2023 AUDIT

Thomas Stoeber, CPA, reported that he met with the auditor, Paul Miller, at the beginning of the audit and then again at the end of the audit. He noted that in Mr. Miller's "unqualified opinion" there were no changes, which Mr. Stoeber said means it was a clean audit with no issues.

Mr. Stoeber noted that the big takeaway is that the District's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$7.3 million as of December 31, 2023, which is considered its net position. This is an increase of over \$400,000 in comparison to the prior year. The District's net position for the General Fund was \$5.9 million, an increase of over \$412,000 in comparison to the prior year. General property taxes collected were over \$1.637 million or 84% of general revenues. Mr. Stoeber pointed out that revenues from property taxes have steadily increased over the past several years. He said the health of the District is very sound. He said it will be important for the District to continue working within the budget and set a reasonable budget that the organization can meet. He noted that last year it was important that the budget be amended after the purchase of Suite A and that this is the sort of unusual activity that required an amendment.

Director Rebie Hazard asked about the \$243 overdraft shown under the Water Activity Enterprise figures. Neither Mr. Stoeber nor staff remembered any such overdraft so staff will do some research to see what these charges were for.

Director Joellen Fonken asked if Mr. Stoeber had seen organizations who have steadily built their reserves "tone down" their mill levy accordingly. Mr. Stoeber replied that he has not seen this happen in a long time. He recalled that the Gunnison Fire District and the Gunnison Watershed RE1J School District both did lower their requested mill levy each once, but that this was many years ago. In today's economy, it's unlikely an entity would lower their mill with operational costs continuing to rise, but because some organizations have the ability to set their mill levy within a range, it is not unheard of. Mr. Stoeber noted that once voters have approved a mill levy for an organization, it is what it is.

After no further questions were raised, President McPhail asked Director Hazard if she was comfortable moving forward with the approval of the 2023 Audit without knowing exactly what the \$243 overdraft was for. Director Hazard replied "yes," that the nominal amount is not a big concern.

Director Julie Nania moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of the 2023 Audit as presented. The motion carried.

5. Resolution 2024-08 to Approve Check Signers

With the resignation of former President Michelle Pierce, General Manager Sonja Chavez explained that for the District's banking operations, the bank requires a resolution and accompanying documents to update the signers on the District's bank accounts.

Director Rebie Hazard moved and Director Julie Nania seconded approval of Resolution 2024-08 to certify the signers for the District's bank accounts as presented. The motion carried.

6. General Counsel Update

General Counsel John McClow reported that the letter of support for the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act (the "GORP Act") authorized by the Board at the last meeting received two positive comments from Board members and was sent to Senator Bennet's office. John Whitney from Senator Bennet's office told John that they had received letters of support from all of the participants involved in the planning process for the GORP act.

Mr. McClow said that the Water Conservation Board put a call on the Slate River to maintain the required streamflows.

He also said the Bureau of Reclamation has again rescheduled the meeting to review the 1975 Agreement and it is now scheduled for October 21, 1024.

Mr. McClow reported that at last week's Colorado Water Conservation Board meeting, they made a lot of grant awards, including one to the Home Ditch Project and one to Coldharbour Institute, submitted by Julie Nania. Congratulations were offered to Director Nania.

Senior Program Manager Beverly Richards said she spoke with Tom Rozman (Water Commissioner) earlier in the day about the Slate River call and he reported that due to some recent good rain and snowfall in the area, they had stopped releases from the reservoir for now because flows were being met.

Mr. McClow also noted that the District had received an email from Steve Pope, General Manager of the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association indicating that as part of the commissioning process for the Taylor River Hydropower Plant, they would be flushing the penstock, ramping the plant up and down. As a result, there were flow fluctuations of approximately 50 cfs throughout the weekend. Mr. McClow shared with Mr. Pope that this would not be an issue for three days. The flows should now be stabilized at the planned flows of 300 cfs until the next scheduled flow change. This information was shared with TLUG representatives, TLUG stakeholders, the District's general email members, and the general public on the District's social media platforms. Director Joellen Fonken asked if it would be possible to tour the hydroelectric plant. Manager Chavez indicated that she would reach out to UVWUA or GCEA to organize a tour.

7. Budget Work Session

General Manager Sonja Chavez reviewed the budget memorandum in the packet line by line which outlined the changes made to the draft budget since the previous Board meeting. Some specific highlights she reviewed included the District canceling its contract with the Employer's Council and noted that she was not

happy with their membership services including the new salary database they have transitioned which was a valuable component of our previous membership. She indicated that the District would be joining State Human Resource Management (SHRM).

Ms. Chavez also reported that the District was not successful in securing the Bureau of Reclamation grant for the additional ASO flights in the basin. She said that of the 16 grants funded, none were for flights in Colorado, even though our basin is the second largest tributary of the Colorado River. She said she will be contacting the CWCBC and Colorado River District to see if the UGRWCD can still retain the funding they pledged but it may require some program changes (to be determined).

Ms. Chavez reported that the District was successful in securing \$941,000 in funding agreements from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to support the Wet Meadows Restoration Program for the next three to five years. She offered her thanks to the BLM for their partnership. President Stacy McPhail noted that this was the largest amount of funding the program has received from other partners since its inception. She said the District has carried the burden of this program funding for a number of years and she was happy to see that the program is now sustainable into the future without such a heavy reliance on the District for financial support.

Director Rebie Hazard asked if the state's capping or reducing property taxes will have an effect on the District's budget. General Manager Chavez replied that she and Tom Stoeber will be attending a webinar tomorrow offered by the Special Districts Association to better understand outcomes from HB24-1001. At this time, Ms. Chavez feels the implications will be minor but she will know more after the webinar. Director Hazard noted that if valuations go down, it could affect homeowner's insurance coverage as it would be based on a reduced valuation. She said this is a real concern for her. Ms. Chavez said she hopes the issue will be clearer for her and Mr. Stoeber tomorrow after the webinar. General Counsel John McCrow reported that the District has some flexibility in the mill levy as well. He said that by a vote of the taxpayers in 1998, the District can levy up to two mills. Historically, the Board has stayed just shy of this level, but in a crisis, it would be possible to raise the mill levy to offset additional expenses.

Director Julie Nania said that since the District was able to save over \$400,000 what is the staff consensus on the right balance of revenues versus expenses. "Are we under spending?" she asked. She asked how much the staff wants to see in reserves. General Manager Chavez replied that she foresees expenses going up in the next five years with the possibility of increased funding for more ASO flights, the cost of the return flow study, additional water quality monitoring, and inflationary pressures on wages. She noted she "feels comfortable where we are now around that \$6.9 million mark in reserves" but that she worries if there would be a big wildfire in the basin, the District would need to respond to something like that. The District is also trying to raise a lot of additional monies to help offset some of its programming costs, so she feels comfortable with the model as it is now. President McPhail said she likes where the District is at with the budget and particularly feels that payroll expenses compared to the overall budget are reasonable. She also feels it gives the District some capacity to continue to grow and retain staff as programming increases. She noted that the District is in a very different and positive position than it was five years ago with regard to better serving our community. She is very comfortable with setting aside the savings of \$400,000 last year

as a cushion for inflation and the potential situation of having general funding revenues decrease due to the recent legislation or a potential recession. General Counsel McClow pointed out that if there should be a recession, it is a slow-moving train that does not happen overnight and the District would have time to make budgetary adjustments if necessary.

Director Nania noted that she is pleased with the additional grant funding secured by the District this year and that, in turn, the District might want to consider increasing the amount of funding it offers through the District grant program to increase the amount of matching funds it makes available so that applicants can take advantage of some of the other increased grant opportunities available at this time. Ms. Chavez replied that she agrees we should try to capitalize on some of the opportunities available at this time and she is hopeful that the new Projects Manager Bailey Friedman can help grow our partnerships to implement more watershed-wide projects.

Ms. Chavez also reported that when she spoke with Senator Bennet she told him that our community needs incentive pay for federal employees working in resort areas versus the situation we currently have where folks move here for a year or two and are unable to find housing and leave to work in Denver (which gets incentive pay). She plans to meet with John Whitney from Senator Bennet's office to discuss this idea further.

8. BASIN WATER SUPPLY REPORT

Beverly Richards reported currently there are no areas of drought in the basin. However, according to the National Weather Service, they are anticipating moving into a warmer, dryer pattern for the next three months. She said that precipitation for the water year to date is at 119 percent of normal. She noted that the soil moisture content spikes after a precipitation events and then dries back up rapidly. Finally, she reported that most of the streamflow gauges were registering at normal or above normal.

As for reservoir content, Ms. Richards noted that Blue Mesa is at about 67 percent right now and she believes this is because of flow requirements at the Whitewater Colorado gauge under the Aspinall Unit Record of Decision. Blue Mesa Reservoir will have a winter storage level of around 66-67 percent. According to Reclamation, Taylor Reservoir may end the water year with approximately 73,000 acre-feet of storage if we stay cool and wet.

9. Presentation by North American Weather Consultants – Cloudseeding Report

Cole Osborne and Jared Smith of North American Weather Consultants provided a presentation about the District's cloudseeding program. Mr. Osborne noted that it is surprisingly difficult for water to freeze just below its melting point as it resists freezing unless it has something like dust or some other solid to cling to and form ice crystals. In pure water, it takes an energetic nudge to jostle the molecules into the special arrangement needed to freeze. He noted that when water freezes and forms ice crystals, they congregate to form snowflakes which eventually grow heavy enough to fall. He explained that nucleating agents expedite the formation of snowflakes by providing the necessary energetic nudge. These can be natural (such as fine

dust particles), circumstantial (such as pollution or smog) or even intentional (such as through the cloud seeding process).

For the UGRWCD Cloud Seeding Program, they use silver iodide. Silver Iodide molecules exhibit strong electrical polarity and silver iodide crystals have a shape similar to ice crystals. Radar data is used to monitor the composite reflectivity of the clouds and possible incoming storms. Plumes of silver iodide are then released into the air either through ground-based seeding from manual or remote generators in the basin. Cole noted that the remote generators deliver a higher concentration of silver iodide and can be placed in otherwise unreachable locations while the manual generators sometimes during storm conditions at night will be turned on for a couple of hours in advance and may continue to run until the operator can get back to the generator to turn them off.

The UGRWCD Program started in 2002 with the goal of increasing water in the higher terrain of the basin. It includes portions of the West Elk Mountains, Saguache Range and portions of the San Juans. Evaluations show a 7-12 percent increase of precipitation over a long-term period, with the cost of the water produced from enhanced snowpack estimated to be around \$6-12 per acre-foot.

During the 2023-2024 season, cloud seeding took place from November 15, 2023 to April 15, 2024 and included 31 operational periods over 47 days for a cumulative total of 1375.75 hours of seeding from manual sites and 277.75 hours from the remote sites. There were two storms seeded in November, five in December, six in January, seven in February, nine in March and two in April. Precipitation was below normal in November, December and through the beginning of January with precipitation trending to near normal conditions by the end of the season. April 1 snowpack was around 93% of normal.

Mr. Osborne noted that for the 2024-25 season, the predictions show western Colorado on the edge of warmer, dryer conditions with the potential for lower-than-average precipitation to near normal conditions, so time will tell.

They reported that it would really benefit the UGRWCD Program if they could tie into the new Doppler radar station to be installed at Black Mesa and if they could install a few more generators in the area.

Director Joellen Fonken asked if it was possible to install generators into designated wilderness areas. Cole replied that under a different program, they were able to target an area in the Rocky Mountain Wilderness for cloud seeding with special permission, which was just granted a couple of years ago. He was not aware of any other wilderness areas involved in cloud seeding.

Senior Program Manager Beverly Richards reported that the District does have plans to approach the CWCB about putting in a third remote generator above Ohio Creek, as this was shown by a UCAR study to be a favorable location.

General Manager Sonja Chavez said that Sarah Tessendorf of UCAR had conducted the SNOWIE study that Mr. Osborne referenced in his presentation and that it would be a good idea to have her come before the Board to share more of her study results.

Mr. Osborne noted that for some of the manual generator operators, that when they leave the area or retire from providing the service, it can be difficult to find new people to operate the generators as they have to educate them about the program. He said it would be a huge help if funding were made available for additional generators and if the District could help secure landowners who would be willing to have a generator on their property and learn the operations.

Wet Meadows Coordinator Amanda Aulenbach asked if there were any negative consequences to the environment from the use of silver iodide. Mr. Jared Smith replied that several research studies have been conducted over the last three decades to compare levels of silver after a cloud seeding event to areas that have not been seeded. He said the difference was after cloud seeding they found 30 parts per trillion compared to 10 parts per trillion in non-seeded areas over hundreds of thousands of acres. He said basically the silver iodide turns to elemental silver that is naturally found on surfaces and is non-reactive, so there is really no differences and no negative consequences found to date. He noted that when the generators put a small burst of silver iodide into the atmosphere that creates a chain reaction of crystal formation. That small burst spreads over a really large area and not all snowflakes that fall to the ground during a cloud seeding event carry any silver iodide.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT

President Stacy McPhail thanked Director John Perusek for stepping into the Treasurer position. It was noted that a brief report was included in the Board packet. No questions were raised about the report.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Projects & Fundraising: Ms. Chavez noted that she had previously covered the agreement with the BLM.

Briefing on Senator Bennet Community Infrastructure Input Meeting: Ms. Chavez said that she and Amanda Aulenbach met with Senator Bennet and focused on four main points: the City of Gunnison water treatment plant; replacement of wastewater treatment plant at the north end of the valley, agricultural infrastructure needs and watershed health/source water protection issues.

Water Quality & Quantity: Water Resources Technician Ari Yamaguchi provided a memorandum in the packet and said that he and Alana Nichols were going out once a week to collect samples for the Irrigation Return Flow study and that these visits would be reduced to once a month after irrigation season has ended.

He attended the Hinsdale County public meeting on 18 September regarding aquatic nuisance species (ANS), expressing the District's support for CPW's requests of the county, including funding. There was discussion about CPW installing a lockable gate at the main boat ramp on Lake San Cristobal (LSC) that will mitigate the number of people who put their boats in the reservoir outside of board inspection hours. If the project is approved by Hinsdale County, the District expressed that they may be able to provide funding assistance to

help offset installation costs. In addition, CPW also expressed concern about other sites on LSC where people are launching trailered watercraft (Wupperman Campground) and the desire to strategically place large boulders to prevent access. There was discussion following that it would be important to provide public outreach in the area about the dangers of ANS. District funds may also be used to support CPW in expanding the daily operating hours and the duration of the inspection season at this location. No formal agreements have been made. The District set aside \$20,000/yr in 2025 at its August meeting which can be used to support ANS activities throughout the Upper Gunnison Basin.

Mr. Yamaguchi also reported that District Staff and other stakeholder, including the BLM, Town of CB, CB South Metro and Coal Creek Watershed Coalition met on September 11th for the annual Water Quality/Quantity meeting required as part of the USGS Joint Funding Agreement. USGS representatives presented on new flow measurement methods in development, reviewed data collected throughout the basin during WY 2024 to date and discussed the budget for continuing monitoring into 2025 as sampling costs increase.

Wet Meadows Program Update: Wet Meadows program Coordinator Amanda Aulenbach reported that she is “what’s new” for the program. She also reported that in terms of funding/grants, she’s been working with the Nature Conservancy (TNC) on a funding proposal for the Antelope Creek Watershed Restoration Project. She’s working on scheduling a site visit with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and BIO-Logic Inc. contractor to assess site potential and initiate restoration planning.

As was mentioned earlier, she and General Manager Sonja Chavez worked on the BLM Good Neighbor Authority funding agreement and was successful in securing \$312,000 over 3 years to: implement a new restoration project at Gold Basin, conduct maintenance on 5 existing projects on BLM land, conduct cultural resource surveys, and conduct vegetation monitoring. Ms. Chavez and Ms. Aulenbach also worked on the BLM Cooperative Agreement where the District received a commitment of \$620,000 over five years.

Ms. Aulenbach and Mr. Yamaguchi are also working with Joslyn Hays, MS student at the University of Denver and Gunnison High School Graduate, to discuss her timeline for the fall and plans for the GIS project Joslyn is leading for the District and other partners.

She also provided a brief wrap-up of the 2024 Wet Meadows field season and plans to hire two new interns for the 2025 season. A 2024 end of season meeting with partners will be held on October 22.

Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) Update: UGRWCD Fellow Alana Nichols reported that the DCP hired Savannah Nelson to serve as the Communications Consultant for the Upper Gunnison River DCP. She also reminded the Board of the DCP stakeholders meeting on Wednesday morning beginning at 9 a.m. She said several targeted workshops will follow the general stakeholders meeting, including: Municipal and Industrial Focus: September 25, 2024, 2:30-4:30 pm (District Office & Zoom); Environmental Focus: September 26, 2024, 1-3 pm (District Office & Zoom); Recreation Focus: October 3, 2024, 9-11 am (Virtual only); Agency Focus: October 15, 2024, 1-3 pm (Virtual only) and an Agriculture Focus workshop will be scheduled for later in October.

Education and Outreach Committee: Administrative Assistant Sue Uerling referred to the memorandum included in the packet and said the other new news that she had on behalf of the committee is that the

Gunnison Elementary School was able to find drivers to transport the third and fifth grade classes to Gothic for the RMBL Field Trips. In addition, after the Rotary Fishing tournament was initially postponed in May due to the Highway 50 Bridge closure, a smaller version will be held this coming weekend, September 28 and 29th at Blue Mesa Reservoir. The District is providing imprinted items for the participants' goodie bags and sponsorship funding.

Taylor Local Users Group (TLUG) Update: In TLUG Director/Chairman Don Sabrowski's absence, General Manager Chavez reported that TLUG held their last meeting for 2024 on September 9th. The group was able to approve the USGS release recommendations throughout the summer and will end the season with a just over 73,000 acre-feet of water stored. She noted that at the beginning of October, releases will be gradually ramped down to provide appropriate streamflow for the brown trout spawning.

Scientific Endeavors: Director Rosemary Carroll wished everyone a Happy New Water Year as of October 1st and hoped to see a lot of the Board and staff at the C-9 Summit on October 1st and 2nd at the Crested Butte Center for the Arts.

Gunnison Basin Roundtable (GBRT) : General Counsel John McClow attended the GBRT meeting on September 16th. He reported that there are two vacant seats on the GBRT and no one had applied. General Manager Chavez explained that the roundtable meets every other month with the option for virtual attendance. Mr. McClow noted that there are specific requirements for the "Environmental Seat." He also reported that the GBRT awarded two grants and the CWCBA has updated their Guide, which is currently out for public comment. They also discussed the Basin Implementation Plan and encouraged attendance at the C-9 Summit. Mr. McClow told Board members that if they were not able to attend both days, the meat of the meeting takes place on the second day. He noted that registration closes on September 28, 2024.

11. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

President Stacy McPhail expressed her sincere appreciation for former President Michelle's Pierce years of service to the District. Several Board members noted that they miss her. President McPhail read Resolution 2024-09 in full which honors Ms. Pierce. The resolution will be signed by the President and Secretary and framed in a glass-encased frame outlined with real wildflowers and sent to Ms. Pierce.

Director Rebie Hazard moved and Director Andy Spann seconded approval of Resolution 2024-09 honoring former President Michelle Pierce for her many years of service to the District. The motion carried.

12. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizen comments were brought forth.

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

A list of meetings was included in the Board packet. Director Julie Nania pointed out that the Headwaters Conference at Western is October 25th and 26th. She encouraged Board members to attend noting that it is a great opportunity to orient a lot of new students to water issues and the importance of the watershed.

14. SUMMARY OF MEETING ACTION ITEMS

- Staff will arrange a tour of the new Hydropower Plant on Taylor Reservoir
- Staff will research the overdraft charges for the Water Activity Enterprise noted on the audit
- Staff will try to connect the North American Water Consultants with the Doppler radar team to be able to share data for the cloud seeding program
- Staff will reach out to Sarah Tessendorf of UCAR about providing a presentation to the Board on her cloudseeding research

15. ADJOURNMENT

President Stacy McPhail adjourned the September 23, 2024 Board meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Sabrowski, Secretary

APPROVED:

Stacy McPhail, President

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Monthly Budget Summary 2024

	Sep 24	YTD 2024	2024 Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Asp Water Sales	167.19	24,247.75	21,920.00	110.62%
Rent Income	1,225.00	11,200.00	30,000.00	37.33%
Cloud Seeding Income	0.00	120,600.00	120,600.00	100.0%
Interest Income	8,295.97	50,561.92	60,000.00	84.27%
Property Tax Income	32,264.42	2,262,055.22	2,190,598.00	103.26%
Reimbursed Exp Income	0.00	23,375.08	38,696.00	60.41%
Watershed Mgmt Income	0.00	199,611.94	231,914.00	86.07%
Wet Meadows Income	0.00	193,446.55	320,470.00	60.36%
WQ Monitoring Inc	0.00	42,393.00	42,393.00	100.0%
Water Supply Income	0.00	2,670.56		
Unspent Funds Prev Year	0.00	0.00	210,190.00	0.0%
Vehicle Income	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.0%
Miscellaneous Income	5,376.99	5,460.32		
Total Income	47,329.57	2,935,622.34	3,271,781.00	89.73%
Cost of Goods Sold				
Watershed COST	2,627.00	6,370.89		
CWCB/ NCAR #2023-2377 \$14,998	0.00	4,233.29		
CWCB PO 2023-3158	0.00	-8,731.03		
Total COGS	2,627.00	1,873.15		
Gross Profit	44,702.57	2,933,749.19	3,271,781.00	89.67%
Expense				
1 Op X				
Admin.Travel & Exp.	1,324.72	19,113.50	35,000.00	54.61%
Audit Expense	6,500.00	6,500.00	10,000.00	65.0%
Accounting & Professional Fees	3,360.00	31,473.08	51,000.00	61.71%
BOD Expenses	77.54	6,448.40	15,000.00	42.99%
BOD Mileage	113.90	2,706.13	5,000.00	54.12%
BOD Mtg Fees	800.00	9,400.00	13,360.00	70.36%
Bonding and Insurance	0.00	14,567.00	15,000.00	97.11%
Building Rep/Maint	0.00	6,165.07	10,000.00	61.65%
CAM	0.00	4,682.64	5,400.00	86.72%
Computer Exp	954.94	14,818.30	23,300.00	63.6%
Copier Expenses	329.47	2,996.25	5,500.00	54.48%
County Treasurers' Fees	693.48	65,842.79	49,410.00	133.26%
Spencer Bldg Reserve Contrib	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	100.0%
Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	1,467.07	8,790.63	16,475.00	53.36%
Legal Publication	849.05	2,420.11	10,000.00	24.2%
Manager's Discretionary	658.85	4,533.61	25,000.00	18.13%
Meeting Expenses	855.86	3,129.67	5,000.00	62.59%
Office Cleaning	630.00	5,872.50	6,500.00	90.35%
Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	2,168.03	10,257.77	12,000.00	85.48%
Payroll Exp	68,975.09	590,265.89	799,151.00	73.86%
Postage	0.00	977.45	1,000.00	97.75%
Telephone	670.78	6,192.54	7,110.00	87.1%
Utilities	772.95	7,603.95	9,800.00	77.59%
Vehicle Expense	488.20	2,758.80	7,000.00	39.41%
Bank Service Charges	0.00	-35.00		
Total 1 Op X	91,689.93	837,481.08	1,147,006.00	73.02%
2 Non-Op X				
Asp Subordination Report	0.00	0.00	5,500.00	0.0%
Aspinall Contract Costs	63.07	18,308.05	21,920.00	83.52%
City of Gunnison Cleanup	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
Consulting/Engineering	0.00	13,347.82	46,000.00	29.02%
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	100.0%
Donation Dust on Snowpack	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	100.0%
Drought Contingency Cont	20.97	3,177.38	30,000.00	10.59%

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Monthly Budget Summary 2024

	Sep 24	YTD 2024	2024 Budget	% of Budget
Grant Program	0.00	92,145.33	430,190.00	21.42%
Gunnison River Festival	0.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	100.0%
Endanger Fish Recovery Program	0.00	3,750.00	3,000.00	125.0%
Lake Fork Conservancy	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	100.0%
LSC Expenses	0.00	13,972.20	13,464.00	103.78%
Public Outreach	820.23	36,210.02	61,485.00	58.89%
Regional Water Supply Imp. Exp.	115,503.30	352,026.78	450,500.00	78.14%
Taylor Park Projects Exp	0.00	7,436.00	7,436.00	100.0%
Watershed Mgmt X	51,103.93	280,080.83	379,914.00	73.72%
Wet Meadow X	32,188.89	97,389.60	330,470.00	29.47%
WQ Monitoring	89,571.45	89,631.60	169,930.00	52.75%
Total 2 Non-Op X	289,271.84	1,041,975.61	1,986,309.00	52.46%
Capital Outlay Expense				
Computer Asset	0.00	8,680.89	10,000.00	86.81%
Office Equipment	0.00	11,199.46	30,000.00	37.33%
Spencer Unit A Reno	441.77	134,641.59	160,000.00	84.15%
Spencer Unit C Reno	5,810.00	8,316.84	7,000.00	118.81%
Capital Outlay Expense - Other	0.00	9,616.80	0.00	100.0%
Total Capital Outlay Expense	6,251.77	172,455.58	207,000.00	83.31%
Contingency	0.00	2,429.73	24,000.00	10.12%
Total Expense	387,213.54	2,054,342.00	3,364,315.00	61.06%
Net Ordinary Income	-342,510.97	879,407.19	-92,534.00	-950.36%
Other Income/Expense				
Dividend Income	0.00	250.00		
Net Other Income	0.00	250.00		
Net Income	-342,510.97	879,657.19	-92,534.00	-950.63%

11:17 AM
10/17/24
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2024

Date	Name	Account	Amount
5B's BBQ			
09/30/2024	5B's BBQ	Meeting Expenses	455.75
Total 5B's BBQ			455.75
Alan Wartes Media LLC			
09/30/2024	Alan Wartes Media LLC	USBR Drought Contingency	92.80
09/30/2024	Alan Wartes Media LLC	Legal Publication	265.62
Total Alan Wartes Media LLC			358.42
Alana Nichols			
09/11/2024	Alana Nichols	Admin.Travel & Exp.	41.54
Total Alana Nichols			41.54
Andy Spann BOD			
09/30/2024	Andy Spann BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
09/30/2024	Andy Spann BOD	BOD Mileage	4.69
Total Andy Spann BOD			104.69
Anthem			
09/30/2024	Anthem	Medical Insurance	350.09
Total Anthem			350.09
Atmos Energy			
09/30/2024	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	48.44
09/30/2024	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit C	38.15
Total Atmos Energy			86.59
Beverly Richards			

11:17 AM
10/17/24
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2024

Date	Name	Account	Amount
09/30/2024	Beverly Richards	Medical Insurance	174.70
Total Beverly Richards			174.70
BIO-Logic Inc			
09/30/2024	BIO-Logic Inc	ATBC Expense	2,364.96
09/30/2024	BIO-Logic Inc	FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem Exp	7,009.23
Total BIO-Logic Inc			9,374.19
Blair & Associates, P.C.			
09/30/2024	Blair & Associates, P.C.	Audit Expense	6,500.00
Total Blair & Associates, P.C.			6,500.00
Brooke Zanatell BOD			
09/30/2024	Brooke Zanatell BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Brooke Zanatell BOD			100.00
Business Solutions Leasing			
09/30/2024	Business Solutions Leasing	Copier Expenses	242.89
Total Business Solutions Leasing			242.89
CEBT			
09/30/2024	CEBT	Medical Insurance	5,671.10
Total CEBT			5,671.10
Chase - United Credit Card			
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Tacom	106.90
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Highl	355.97
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	923.24
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Computer Software	351.99

11:17 AM
10/17/24
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2024

Date	Name	Account	Amount
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Meeting Expenses	400.11
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Wet Meadow X	195.97
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Admin.Travel & Exp.	1,025.28
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	BOD Expenses	77.54
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Public Outreach - Misc Expenses	240.23
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Spencer Unit A Reno	441.77
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Drought Contingency Cont	20.97
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	780.69
09/30/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	374.78
Total Chase - United Credit Card			5,295.44
City of Gunnison			
09/30/2024	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	189.54
09/30/2024	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	110.20
09/30/2024	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit C	112.88
09/30/2024	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	41.68
09/30/2024	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	232.06
Total City of Gunnison			686.36
Colin Uerling			
09/30/2024	Colin Uerling	Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	75.00
Total Colin Uerling			75.00
Crested Butte News			
09/30/2024	Crested Butte News	Legal Publication	153.43
Total Crested Butte News			153.43
Don Sabrowski BOD			
09/30/2024	Don Sabrowski BOD	BOD Mileage	21.44

11:17 AM
10/17/24
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2024

Date	Name	Account	Amount
	Total Don Sabrowski BOD		21.44
	Dove Graphics		
09/30/2024	Dove Graphics	Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	90.00
	Total Dove Graphics		90.00
	Friends of Youth and Nature		
09/30/2024	Friends of Youth and Nature	CWCB PEPO 2024-2668	1,500.00
	Total Friends of Youth and Nature		1,500.00
	Fullmer's Ace Hardware		
09/30/2024	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	Wet Meadow X	128.96
	Total Fullmer's Ace Hardware		128.96
	GL Computer Service, Inc.		
09/30/2024	GL Computer Service, Inc.	Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	370.00
09/30/2024	GL Computer Service, Inc.	Computer Repair/IT Support	400.00
	Total GL Computer Service, Inc.		770.00
	Gobins's, Inc.		
09/30/2024	Gobins's, Inc.	Copier Expenses	86.58
	Total Gobins's, Inc.		86.58
	Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder		
09/30/2024	Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder	Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Tacom	25.33
	Total Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder		25.33
	Hartman Brothers, Inc.		
09/30/2024	Hartman Brothers, Inc.	Cloud Seeding	28.05

11:17 AM
10/17/24
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2024

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Total Hartman Brothers, Inc.			28.05
Humana			
09/01/2024	Humana	Medical Insurance	102.00
Total Humana			102.00
JB Painting Services LLC			
09/13/2024	JB Painting Services LLC	Spencer Unit C Reno	2,905.00
09/23/2024	JB Painting Services LLC	Spencer Unit C Reno	2,905.00
Total JB Painting Services LLC			5,810.00
Joellen Fonken BOD			
09/30/2024	Joellen Fonken BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
09/30/2024	Joellen Fonken BOD	BOD Mileage	6.70
Total Joellen Fonken BOD			106.70
John McClow			
09/30/2024	John McClow	Medical Insurance	174.70
Total John McClow			174.70
John Perusek BOD			
09/30/2024	John Perusek BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total John Perusek BOD			100.00
Julie Nania BOD			
09/30/2024	Julie Nania BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
09/30/2024	Julie Nania BOD	BOD Mileage	40.20
Total Julie Nania BOD			140.20

11:17 AM
10/17/24
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2024

Date	Name	Account	Amount
LexisNexis			
09/30/2024	LexisNexis	Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	176.48
09/30/2024	LexisNexis	Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	686.38
09/30/2024	LexisNexis	Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	40.98
Total LexisNexis			903.84
Lightspeed Voice			
09/04/2024	Lightspeed Voice	Telephone	1.66
09/30/2024	Lightspeed Voice	Telephone	310.10
Total Lightspeed Voice			311.76
New Morning Improvement, LLC			
09/30/2024	New Morning Improvement, LLC	Office Cleaning	630.00
Total New Morning Improvement, LLC			630.00
North American Weather Consultants, Inc.			
09/30/2024	North American Weather Consultants, Inc.	Cloud Seeding	19,300.00
Total North American Weather Consultants, Inc.			19,300.00
OffCenter Designs, LLC			
09/30/2024	OffCenter Designs, LLC	Manager's Discretionary	658.85
Total OffCenter Designs, LLC			658.85
QuickBooks			
09/04/2024	QuickBooks	Computer Software	76.00
Total QuickBooks			76.00
Rebie Hazard-BOD			
09/30/2024	Rebie Hazard-BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00

11:17 AM
10/17/24
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2024

Date	Name	Account	Amount
09/30/2024	Rebie Hazard-BOD	BOD Mileage	39.53
Total Rebie Hazard-BOD			139.53
09/30/2024	RigNet Inc	Cloud Seeding	38.45
Total RigNet Inc			38.45
09/30/2024	Rosemary Carroll - BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Rosemary Carroll - BOD			100.00
09/30/2024	Silver World Publishing	Legal Publication	430.00
09/30/2024	Silver World Publishing	Advertising Radio & Newspapers	80.00
Total Silver World Publishing			510.00
09/30/2024	Sonja Chavez	Admin.Travel & Exp.	356.44
Total Sonja Chavez			356.44
09/30/2024	Stacy McPhail BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
09/30/2024	Stacy McPhail BOD	BOD Mileage	1.34
Total Stacy McPhail BOD			101.34
09/30/2024	Strategic by Nature	USBR Drought Contingency	10,854.35
Total Strategic by Nature			10,854.35

11:17 AM
10/17/24
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2024

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Sunshine Creatives 09/30/2024	Sunshine Creatives	CWCB PEPO 2024-2668	1,127.00
Total Sunshine Creatives			1,127.00
The Paper Clip 09/30/2024	The Paper Clip	Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	117.55
Total The Paper Clip			117.55
Thomas N Stoeber, CPA 09/30/2024	Thomas N Stoeber, CPA	Accounting & Professional Fees	3,360.00
Total Thomas N Stoeber, CPA			3,360.00
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation 09/30/2024	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Aspinall Contract Costs	63.07
Total U.S. Bureau of Reclamation			63.07
U.S. Geological Survey 09/30/2024	U.S. Geological Survey	H2O Budget & Return Flow Study	96,136.80
09/30/2024	U.S. Geological Survey	HAB Phase 2 Expense	38,924.28
09/30/2024	U.S. Geological Survey	WQ Monitoring	89,571.45
Total U.S. Geological Survey			224,632.53
UnitedHealthcare 09/05/2024	UnitedHealthcare	Medical Insurance	123.90
Total UnitedHealthcare			123.90
Verizon Wireless 09/30/2024	Verizon Wireless	Telephone	359.02

11:17 AM
10/17/24
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2024

Date	Name	Account	Amount
	Total Verizon Wireless		359.02
	Visionary Broadband		
09/01/2024	Visionary Broadband	Internet	126.95
	Total Visionary Broadband		126.95
	Western Colorado University		
09/30/2024	Western Colorado University	Public Outreach - Misc Expenses	500.00
	Total Western Colorado University		500.00
	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers		
09/30/2024	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	ATBC Expense	21,000.00
09/30/2024	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem Exp	500.00
09/30/2024	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	Wet Meadow X	500.00
	Total Wildlands Restoration Volunteers		22,000.00
	Wilson Water Group		
09/30/2024	Wilson Water Group	USBR Drought Contingency	1,232.50
	Total Wilson Water Group		1,232.50
	Upper Gunn Riv Water Conservancy District		
09/12/2024	Upper Gunn Riv Water Conservancy District	10112 · CO Trust 8001	251,200.66
	Total Upper Gunn Riv Water Conservancy District		251,200.66
	TOTAL		577,577.89

UGRWCD						
Account Name: LPL Bonds	Instrument	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
	Type	9/30/2024	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond 17 (FHLB) CUSIP Treasury Note 91282CDH1	BOND	204,006.98	204,335.35	0.750%	11/15/2024	
LPL 28 Freddie Mac CUSIP 3134GXQP2	BOND	198,509.00	200,000.00	3.050%	4/28/2025	7/28/2022
LPL Bond 20 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130AJLA5	BOND	537,654.15	550,000.00	0.770%	5/19/2025	
LPL Bond 21 (Fed Farm) CUSIP 3133EL3P7	BOND	334,452.66	345,000.00	0.550%	8/12/2025	12/7/2023
LPL Bond 29 (Fedl Farm Credit Bank) CUSIP 3133ERJP7	BOND	281,678.04	280,000.00	5.090%	7/1/2026	7/1/2025
LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	BOND	239,283.25	250,000.00	0.910%	3/17/2026	9/17/2021
LPL Bond 24 CUSIP Fedl Home Loan Bank 3130AMDY5	BOND	477,339.50	500,000.00	1.050%	5/20/2026	5/20/2022
LPL 26 (Fed. Home Loan Banks) CUSIP 3130APBE4	BOND	151,321.44	160,000.00	1.060%	9/30/2026	9/30/2022
LPL Note (Fed. Home Loan) 3134H1LP6	BOND	350,361.90	350,000.00	5.240%	12/11/2028	12/11/2024
LPL BOND SUBTOTAL:		\$ 2,774,606.92	\$ 2,839,335.35	2.052%		
Account Name: LPL Certificates of Deposit						
LPL 22 Merrick Bank CD thru LPL CUSIP 59013KLR5	CD	246,317.02	249,000.00	0.350%	12/30/2024	
LPL 30 Synchrony Bank CD CUSIP 87165EXB8	CD	243,712.52	245,000.00	3.420%	7/29/2025	
LPL CD SUBTOTAL:		\$ 490,029.54	\$ 494,000.00	1.885%		
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	1,999.75	-	1.150%	N/A	
LPL MM SUBTOTAL:		\$ 1,999.75				

Account Name	INSTRUMENT	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Notes
	TYPE	9/30/2024	Basis	Rate	Date	
Community Banks of Colo. CD 1487	CD	52,781.63		1.05%	12/26/2024	*Updated on an Annual Basis
Community Banks of Colo. Lake City CD 7668	CD	105,015.89		4.01%	11/20/2026	*Updated on an Annual Basis
10520 Gunnison Bank & Trust CD 6637	CD	218,791.75		2.00%	2/26/2025	*Updated on an Annual Basis
10540 Gunnison Bank & Trust MM - Spencer Building Acct. 3589	CHKG	79,943.01		0.50%		
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8756	CHKG	34,037.88				
				Average Mo. Yield		
10295 COLOTRUST PLUS+	COLO.	1,928,661.22		5.42%	N/A	
COLOTRUST UGRWCD EHOP	COLO.	104,863.97		5.42%	N/A	
10290 COLOTRUST PRIME	COLO.	6,248.33		5.29%	N/A	
10200 Petty Cash	PETTY	124.91		N/A	N/A	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK & COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:		\$ 2,530,468.59				
TOTAL UGRWCD		\$ 5,797,104.80				

UGRWAE	INSTRUMENT	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
Account Name	TYPE	9/30/2024	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond CUSIP 3134H1RM7 Fedl Home Loan Mtg Corp	Bond	300,360.00	300,000.00	5.14%	2/7/2029	8/7/2024
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8764	CHKG	119,645.76				
COLOTRUST PLUS+	COLO.	70,624.68		5.29%	N/A	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK & COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:		\$ 490,630.44				
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	7,730.15	-	0.450%	N/A	
LPL MM SUBTOTAL:		\$ 7,730.15				
TOTAL UGRWAE		\$ 498,360.59				

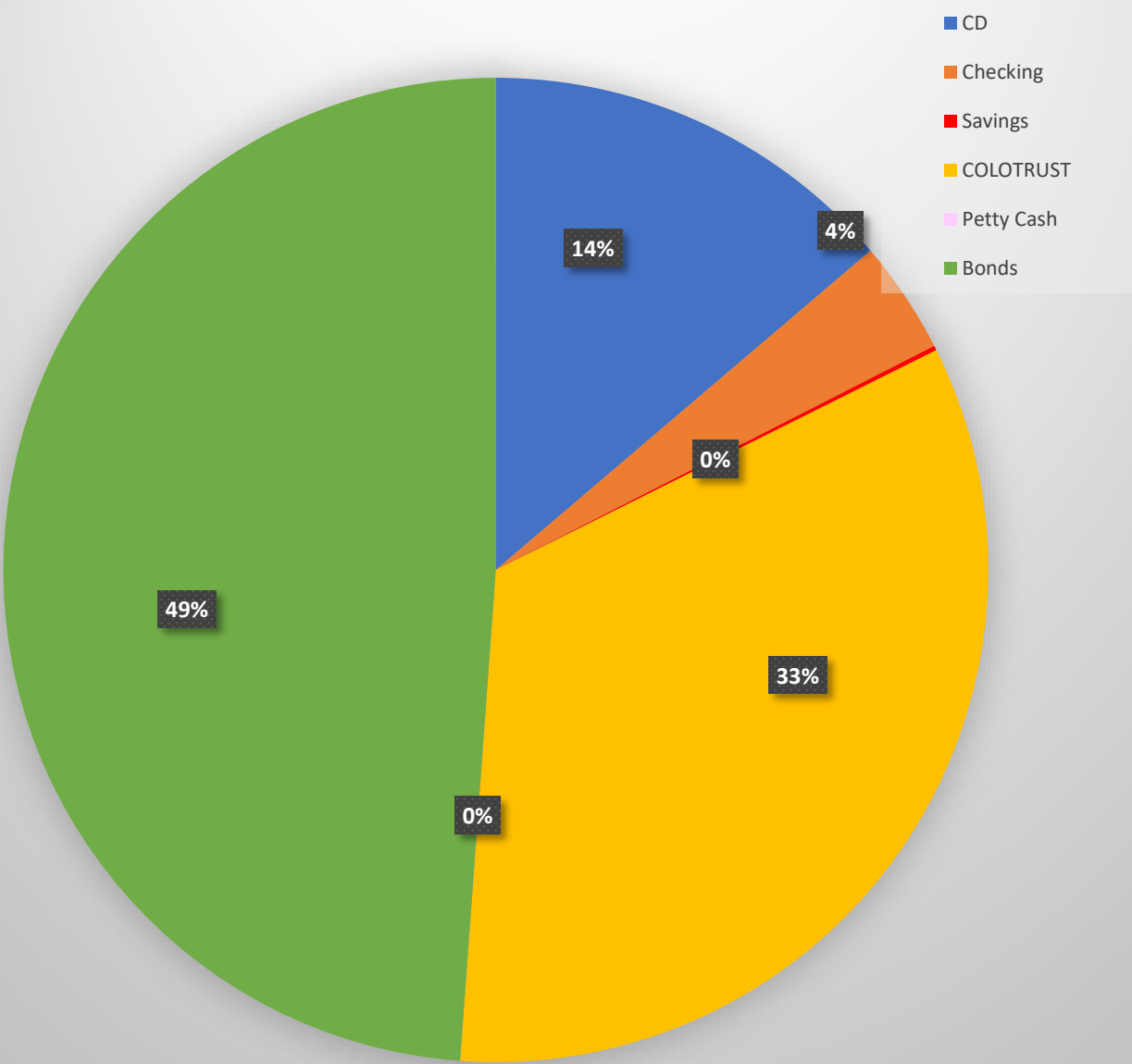
TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE	\$ 6,295,465.39
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Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE by Bank			Total UGRWCD & UGRWAE by Investment Type		
LPL Financial	\$ 3,574,726.36	57%	CD	14%	866,618.81
Community Banks of Colo.	157,797.52	3%	Checking	4%	233,626.65
Gunnison Bank & Trust	452,418.40	7%	Savings	0%	9,729.90
COLOTRUST	2,110,398.20	34%	COLOTRUST	34%	2,110,398.20
Petty Cash	124.91	0%	Petty Cash	0%	124.91
TOTAL ALL SOURCES	\$ 6,295,465.39	100%	Bonds	49%	\$ 3,074,966.92
			Total	100%	\$ 6,295,465.39

UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	14%	\$	866,618.81
Checking	4%	\$	233,626.65
Savings	0%	\$	9,729.90
COLOTRUST	34%	\$	2,110,398.20
Petty Cash	0%	\$	124.91
Bonds	49%	\$	3,074,966.92
Total	100%	\$	6,295,465.39

UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



AGENDA ITEM 4

General Counsel Update



Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

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

Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001

Date: 10/07/2024

Letter of Support: Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Commissioner Touton,

I write in strong support of two applications being submitted by the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program) to the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Basin Environmental Drought Mitigation funding opportunity. These applications will assist in funding critically important work and provide the Recovery Program with the necessary knowledge to most effectively manage their resources in a changing climate.

The work of the Recovery Program and partners is essential to supporting the recovery efforts of the four fish species in the Colorado River basin listed as threatened and endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In recent years, persistent drought has increased pressures on the vital ecosystem of the Colorado River, increasing temperatures, affecting the hydrology, and presenting new challenges.

The first application, "Creating a Smallmouth Bass Management Toolbox, How to Limit Nonnative Populations after Drought Based Expansions and Restore Native Fish Assemblages" will provide the Recovery Program with the funding necessary to address one of the Programs greatest challenges, the persistent and prolific presence of nonnative species, namely smallmouth bass. The second application, "Implementing the 15-mile reach Study Plan to Address Flow Challenges" will implement a series of studies that will assist in identifying future opportunities to best manage program water supplies under a changing climate.

greatest challenges, the persistent and prolific presence of nonnative species, namely smallmouth bass. The second application, "Implementing the 15-mile reach Study Plan to Address Flow Challenges" will implement a series of studies that will assist in identifying future opportunities to best manage program water supplies under a changing climate.

The Recovery Program provides ESA compliance for over 2200 federal, non-federal, and tribal water projects in the Upper Colorado River basin. The program is widely supported by water users, federal and state governmental agencies, environmental groups, and tribal nations. The Recovery Program has long demonstrated an ability to collaborate effectively amongst a diverse group of interests and successfully implement basinwide projects that have contributed to the recovery of these native species.

Thank you for your consideration of the Recovery Program's application.

Sincerely,



Sonja Chavez,
General Manager

AGENDA ITEM 5

**PRESENTATION BY JEAN VIEUX, APPLIED
RESEARCH TEAM, ON MAPPING SNOW WATER
EQUIVALENT WITH WEATHER RADAR**

AGENDA ITEM 6

2025 DRAFT BUDGET WORK SESSION

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT 2025 BUDGET MESSAGE

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (District) was formed on June 1, 1959 pursuant to the provisions of and for the purposes described in the Water Conservancy Act of Colorado, Section 37-45-101, *et seq*, Colorado Revised Statutes. The District was reorganized on October 8, 1991 and again on November 15, 2011. The District is located within Gunnison, Hinsdale, and Saguache Counties, and is generally defined as that area of the Upper Gunnison River watershed which lies upstream of Blue Mesa Dam.

The Mission of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District is to be an active leader in all issues affecting the water resources of the Upper Gunnison River Basin.

The District is supported through a mill levy which is assessed on property located within the District. The current maximum mill levy was set by the voters of the District in 1998 at 2.000 mills. At that time, voters also approved a ballot question exempting the District from the limits of the TABOR amendment to the state constitution and the 5.5% property tax revenue restriction. These revenues were to be used in part to establish a Reserve Fund that would be available to protect our basin's water resources. Threats to the basin's water resources are wildfire, climate change, aridification, water demands on the East Slope, as well as the crisis with declining reservoir storage elevations associated with low hydrologic inflows and overuse by Lower Basin water users.

The District uses the modified accrual basis of accounting in which revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. Expenditures are recognized when the related liability is incurred. The accounts of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District are organized on the basis of a fund. The District has one governmental fund, the General Fund, which is the primary operating fund for the District. The District has one enterprise fund, the Water Activity Enterprise Fund, which has a separate budget process.

Revenues

Budget Line 1. Aspinall Water Contract Sales. This revenue line item indicates expected income from selling Aspinall Augmentation water to third parties under long-term contracts. The District obtained a contract with the United States for 500 acre-feet of augmentation water from the Aspinall Unit for resale to third parties on a 40-year basis. The Bureau will charge approximately \$55-\$60 per acre-foot of water actually sold to third parties. The revenue figures shown also include an additional \$20 per contract to cover the costs of administering this service.

Budget Line 2. Building Rental Income. This revenue line item is associated with rental income from Unit A (2 smaller, upstairs office units) and Unit C.

Budget Line 3. Upper Gunnison Cloud Seeding Program. This line item reflects state and local cooperating entities' anticipated contributions to the 2024-2025 Cloudseeding Program for which the District is the coordinator. This includes funds committed to the program from Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and local partners.

Budget Line 4. Interest Income. This line item includes investment income from District Certificates of Deposit (CD's), Money Markets, and Bonds.

Budget Line 5. Property Tax Income. Property tax revenues in 2025 are expected to be approximately \$2.1 M based on a levy of 1.951 mills (a tax of 1.951 for each \$1,000 of assessed value) levied upon the net valuation for assessment of all taxable property within the District for the year 2024. This line item also includes specific ownership tax and interest and penalties on taxes.

Budget Line 6. Reimbursed Expenses Income: This line item accounts for income that is a result of reimbursement to the District by water activity enterprises for expenses paid for by the District. These include quarterly cost share from UGRWAE and annual cost share from LSCWAE.

Budget Line 7. Watershed Management Income. This item reflects various sources of funds to complete watershed management planning activities. In 2025, these include:

- 7a. CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase III)
- 7b. CWCB 2022-285 (Water Restoration Grant)
- 7c. HAB Phase 2 - CRWCD CFP Funds
- 7d. US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Drought Contingency Planning

Budget Line 8. Wet Meadows Program Income: This line item reflects funds from various entities, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and American the Beautiful Grant (AtBC) for expenses associated with work on the Wet Meadows Project. In 2025, these include:

- 8a. FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem
- 8b. USFS PA 2022
- 8c. AtBC #2024-3842
- 8d. BLM GNA #140L1724
- 8e. BLM L24C00687

Budget Line 9. Water Quality Monitoring Program. Gunnison County, the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise, the National Park Service, and the Skyland Metropolitan/East River Sanitation Districts are participants in the basin wide water quality monitoring program. They do not contract directly with the U. S. Geological Survey and instead contract with the District, and, in turn, the District covers their portion of the funding agreement with USGS in a pass-through arrangement. Pass-through funding from Gunnison County, the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise, the Park Service, and Skyland Metropolitan/East River Sanitation Districts is shown as income.

Budget Line 10. Vehicle Income. When the District applies for grant funding or contracts with outside entities, we may incorporate mileage reimbursements or vehicle per diem associated with the use of District vehicles to carry out grant program activities.

Budget Line 11. Additional Contribution from Reserve Fund. This line item is intended for use when the board uses a portion of its reserve fund for meeting planned budget expenditures. The total amount

is represented in the Revenue over Expenses” line below the Total Expenses.

Total Revenues. Total Revenues for the District in 2025 are expected to be \$3,167,828.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Budget Line 12. Administrative Travel & Expenses. The purpose of this line item is to provide funds for staff travel, conferences, and networking and training expenses. The District reimburses staff for mileage at the standard IRS rate when traveling in their personal vehicle.

Budget Line 13. Audit. Funds are included for the annual audit of the District’s 2024 financial statements.

Budget Line 14. Accounting Services. Funds are included for professional accounting and bookkeeping services from Stoeber and Associates in 2025.

Budget Line 15. Board of Director Expenses. This line item includes expenses associated with Board education including but not limited to mileage reimbursement to attend conferences, lodging expenses, conference fees, meals while attending conferences or traveling on board business, etc.

Budget Line 16. Board of Directors Meeting Mileage. This line item covers Board member reimbursement of mileage expenses associated with regular or committee meeting attendance using the IRS published rate.

Budget Line 17. Board of Directors Meeting Fees. This line item covers stipends for board member regular meeting attendance and is currently set at \$100 per meeting.

Budget Line 18. Bonding & Insurance. Covers general liability insurance for the District, public officials’ liability, accidental death and dismemberment, excess liability, and bonding of the General Manager, Board President, Board Vice President, Treasurer, all account signatories, the Office Manager, Wet Meadows Coordinator, Water Resources Project Manager, Water Resource Technician, and Administrative/Communications Support Specialist. Bond amounts are \$100,000.

Budget Line 19. Building Repair/Maintenance. This line item is intended to cover miscellaneous repair and maintenance expenses associated with Spencer Avenue Units A, B, and C.

Budget Line 20. Common Area Maintenance (CAM). This line item is intended to cover all common area maintenance expenses for the Spencer Avenue Business Park building. This includes snow removal, lawn maintenance, and trash removal.

Budget Line 21. Computer Expenses. This line item covers expenses associated with computer repairs, IT support, and offsite storage, software, and internet services.

- 21a. Computer Repair/IT Support
- 21b. Software
- 21c. Internet
- 21d. Carbonite Storage

Budget Line 22. Copier Expenses. This line item covers the annual lease of the copy machine and any overage charges for copies.

Budget Line 23. County Treasurers' Fees. This line item covers the 3% county treasurer's fee associated with distribution of property tax revenues.

Budget Line 24. Spencer Avenue Business Park Annual Building Reserve Contribution. This line item covers the annual contribution to the Spencer Avenue Business Park account to maintain a capital reserve for any extraordinary maintenance expenses for the building.

Budget Line 25. Dues, Memberships, & Subscriptions. This line item covers annual memberships, dues, and subscriptions important to the ability of the District to carry out its mission including, but not limited to:

- 25a. Colorado Water Congress
- 25b. Colorado Bar Association
- 25c. Northwest Colorado Council of Government (a.k.a. NWCCOG – QQ)
- 25d. Water Education Colorado
- 25e. Special District Association of Colorado
- 25f. Society of Human Resources Management
- 25g. Colorado Water Congress (State Affairs Committee)
- 25h. Colorado Water Congress (Federal Affairs Committee)
- 25i. Weather Modification Association
- 25j. Lexis Nexis
- 25k. Miscellaneous Subscriptions (i.e. Attorney Regulation Council, Colorado Politics, Dropbox, Newspapers, Zoom, Doodle, and GoDaddy)

Budget Line 26. Legal Publications. Includes funds to cover publication of meeting notices, board vacancies including Taylor Local Users Group, and other legally required publications.

Budget Line 27. Manager's Discretionary Budget. This line item is meant to cover miscellaneous and unanticipated expenses of the District including but not limited to, for example, conference or workshop sponsorship, purchase of District shirts for staff or board members, etc.

Budget Line 28. Meeting Expenses. This line item is meant to cover board regular and committee meeting expenses such as food.

Budget Line 29. Office Cleaning. This line item covers the expenses associated with weekly office cleaning for all of Unit A including the upstairs offices and Unit B

Budget Line 30. Office Supplies & Miscellaneous Expenses. This line item includes office and consumable supplies (e.g., paper supplies, coffee, cold beverages, etc.), and furniture under the depreciation amount of \$3,500.

Budget Line 31. Payroll Expenses

31a. Colorado Retirement Association (CRA) Plan. This line item represents the District's contribution to the CRA plan (formerly CCOERA). Benefitted employees are eligible to participate in CRA after one year of employment. In 2023, the District adopted a tiered contribution table based upon years of service. The District will contribute between 8%, 9% or 10% of the employee's gross salary depending upon years of service and the employee must match the District's contribution.

31b. Medical Insurance. Includes health insurance premiums for participating employees. Includes medical, dental, vision, short-term disability, long-term disability and a basic life insurance policy (\$20,000). Also includes reimbursement of Medicare premiums for any participating employees.

31c. Payroll Taxes. Covers the District's payroll tax liability (e.g., Social Security, Medicare, state unemployment taxes, etc.).

31d. Salaries. Includes all District staff: General Manager, General Counsel, Office Manager, Water Resources Project Manager, Wet Meadows Coordinator, Water Resource Technician, and Administrative /Communications Support Specialist.

31e. Intern Payroll. Includes Wet Meadows seasonal interns.

31f. Staff Development. Line item supports staff professional development, professional association dues, etc.

31g. Workers Compensation Insurance. This line item funds premiums for the District's workers' compensation insurance policy.

Budget Line 32. Postage. Intended to cover costs associated with mailing.

Budget Line Item 33. Telephone. This line item includes funds for the District's office phones and cell phones.

Budget Line 34. Utilities. This line item provides funds for water, gas, and electricity for the Spencer Avenue Building, broken out by Unit A, which includes Unit B, and Unit C expenses. Unit C expenses will be paid for by lessee for 2025.

Budget Line 35. Vehicle Expense. The District owns two vehicles for use by employees and board members for District-related travel. This budget line item covers expenses such as maintenance, tires, fuel, insurance, license, registration, and other fees.

Total Operating Expenses. Total Operating Expenses for the District in 2025 are expected to be **\$1,373,007.**

NON-OPERATING EXPENSES

Budget Line Item 36. Aquatic Nuisance Species. This is a new budget line item to provide funds to potentially support projects or activities which reduce potential introduction of aquatic nuisance species in local lakes/reservoirs.

Budget Line Item 37. Aspinall Subordination Agreement Report. This line item supports consultant expenses related to the development of an annual report to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation pursuant to the Aspinall Unit Subordination Agreement.

Budget Line 38. Aspinall Water Contracts. This line item reflects the costs to provide Aspinall Unit augmentation water to contracted users under the District's plan for augmentation utilizing water stored in Blue Mesa Reservoir for 2025.

Budget Line 39. City of Gunnison Cleanup. This line item covers support for the City of Gunnison's annual electronics clean up.

Budget Line Item 40. Consulting & Engineering. This line item supports agricultural or other engineering pre-feasibility studies or cost estimation for high priority projects identified within the basin.

Budget Line 41. Coal Creek Watershed Coalition. This line item supports an annual funding contribution to support activities of the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition.

Budget Line 42. Colorado Dust on Snow. Annual contribution to the Colorado Center for Dust on Snow. Data from these basin snow monitoring studies supports Colorado Basin River Forecast Center and WRF Hydro with ASO data assimilation inflow forecasts which improve management of annual water supply, avalanche predictions, flood forecasting, etc.

Budget Line Item 43. Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) Cash Contribution. The District has committed a matching cash contribution to the development of an Upper Gunnison Basin DCP funded in part by a Bureau of Reclamation grant.

Budget Line Item 44. District Grant Program. This budget line item supports the annual District Grant Program for the development and implementation of water resource improvement projects that are consistent with the purposes of the District including but not limited to the promotion of beneficial uses of water, water quality, water efficiency, and riparian restoration.

Budget Line 45. Gunnison River Festival. The District is the title sponsor for the Gunnison River Festival and makes an annual contribution to the event.

Budget Line 46. Endangered Fish Recovery Program. The District contributes funding on an annual basis in support of the Colorado Water Congress (CWC) Colorado River Project. The CWC has designated an individual responsible for representation of water users on the Colorado River Recovery Program's governing, management, and technical committees. The District has a seat on the Executive Committee that directs the activities of the water user representative. Recovery Program activities in the

Gunnison Basin were formally initiated in January of 2001. The amount includes additional amount approved in 2024.

Budget Line 47. Lake Fork Valley Conservancy. This line item provides annual funding to the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy District in support of water resource improvement activities and education and outreach in Hinsdale County within the Upper Gunnison District water boundary.

Budget Line Item 48: Lake San Cristobal (LSC) Expenses. This line item includes administration fees on unsold base units of augmentation water stored in LSC under the plan for augmentation operated by the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise. This is calculated as follows: 9,500 total base units, divided by 3, less any base units purchased by that entity, multiplied by \$4.50 per base unit.

Budget Line 49: Public Outreach and Education. Includes funds in support of the District's public outreach and education program. Subcategories are identified below:

49a. Advertising. This item provides funding for advertising done by the District through its Public Education and Outreach activities.

49b. General Public Outreach. This item provides funding for on-going activities such as mini-grants, promotional items, event sponsorship, water trailer maintenance.

49c. School and Educational Programs. This item provides funding for on-going activities such as swimming lessons, water book distribution, RMBL science tours, and 8th Grade Taylor Challenge.

Budget Line 50. Regional Water Supply Development. This budget line item supports the District's participation in various water supply related programs. Subcategories are identified below:

50a. Cloudseeding.

50b. Taylor River Modeling

50c. H2O Budget and Return Flow Study

50d. Airborne Snow Observatory Flights

Budget Line 51. Strategic Planning. This budget line item will cover expenses associated with strategic planning for the District.

Budget Line Item 52: Taylor Park Project Expenses. This line item covers payment to the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) for the operation of Taylor Park Reservoir dam as specified in the April 16, 1990 contract between the United States (BOR), the UVWUA, the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, and the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Budget Line Item 53: Watershed Management Planning. This line item supports watershed planning activities which aid in improving water security for all water users in the Upper Gunnison Basin by protecting existing uses, meeting user shortages, and maintaining healthy riverine ecosystems in the face of future demands and climate uncertainty. Current grants the District is managing in support of WMP activities include:

53a. CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase 3)

53b. CFP HAB Study Phase 2

53c. CWCB 2022-2085 (Water Restoration Grant)

53d. US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Drought Contingency Planning

Budget Line Item 54: Wet Meadows Program Expense. This line item summarizes various grants being managed by the District in support of Wet Meadow Program activities and a District \$10,000 general fund contribution to support miscellaneous expenditures like food, program supplies or team building events, coordinator travel, etc. Sub-categories of the funding sources are listed below:

54a. FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem

54b. USFS PA 2022

54c. AtBC #2024-3842

54d. BLM GNA #140L1724

54e. BLM L24C00687

54f. Wet Meadows Miscellaneous \$10k

Budget Line Item 55: Water Quality/Quantity Monitoring Program. This line item supports the District's annual agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for monitoring trends in water quality and quantity throughout the Upper Gunnison basin. Some agency funds are passed through the District under this program (see also income budget line item 9) and as such are included as both income and expenditures. Other entities identified in the comprehensive program pay their annual support directly to the USGS.

Total Non-Operating Expenses. Total Non-Operating Expenses for the District in 2025 are expected to be \$2,010,232.

Budget Line Item 56: Capital Outlay Expense. This line item provides funding for depreciable expense items including the following:

56c. Spencer Unit A Additional Renovation. This line item covers the expenses associated with additional renovation items proposed for Unit A in 2025 including installation of an outside deck.

56d. Spencer Unit C Renovation. This line item covers potential 2025 renovation needs identified in Unit C.

56e. Xeriscaping Project. This line item covers expenses associated with the proposed 2025 Xeriscaping Project through the Transformative Landscape Challenge planned for the Spencer Avenue Building.

Budget Line Item 57. Contingency. This line item allows for additional expenses which may be incurred in 2024 but which are uncertain at the time of budget adoption. It is intended that contingency is used to cover budget overruns or unanticipated expenses.

Budget Line Item 58. Grant Program Commitment. This line item was developed to track grant program funding remaining from the 2024 Grant Program that have not been expended by the end of the year.

Total Expenses. Total Expenses for the District in 2025 are expected to be \$3,614,235.

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT - Draft v.4
General Fund Budget January 1 - December 31, 2025

10/24/24

	2023	2024	2025	
	Actual	Budget	Budget	
REVENUE				
1 Aspinall Water Contract Sales	\$ 24,795	\$ 21,920	\$ 24,000	
2 Building Rental Income	\$ 1,650	\$ 30,000	\$ 43,500	Actual for Unit C
3 Cloud Seeding	\$ 140,750	\$ 120,600	\$ 124,500	
4 Interest on Investments (includes banks & bonds)	\$ 82,141	\$ 60,000	\$ 50,000	
5 Property Tax (includes specific ownership & interest & penalties)	\$ 1,628,027	\$ 2,190,598	\$ 2,204,862	Included draft valuations received
6 Reimbursed Income	\$ 125,805	\$ 38,696	\$ 42,000	
7 Watershed Management Income	\$ 285,141	\$ 231,914	\$ 266,291	
8 Wet Meadows Income	\$ 339,795	\$ 320,470	\$ 356,356	included actual anticipated income
9 Water Quality Monitoring Income	\$ 38,869	\$ 42,393	\$ 46,319	
10 Vehicle Income	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	Actual amount from grants
11 Additional Contribution from Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,666,973	\$ 3,061,591	\$ 3,167,828	
EXPENDITURES				
Operating Expenses				
12 Admin Travel and Expenses	\$ 26,537	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	
13 Audit	\$ 5,800	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
14 Accounting Services	\$ 43,825	\$ 51,000	\$ 55,000	
15 BOD Expenses	\$ 13,507	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	Increase
16 BOD Mileage	\$ 3,358	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,500	
17 BOD Mtg Fees	\$ 11,438	\$ 13,360	\$ 13,360	
18 Bonding and Insurance	\$ 22,110	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,500	
19 Building Rep/Maintenance	\$ 15,806	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
20 CAM	\$ 875	\$ 5,400	\$ 7,500	
21 Computer Expenses	\$ 42,564	\$ 23,300	\$ 32,200	Added amount from GL Computers
22 Copier Expenses	\$ 5,364	\$ 5,500	\$ 7,000	
23 County Treasurers' Fees	\$ 46,753	\$ 49,410	\$ 75,000	
24 Spencer Avenue Business Park Annual Building Reserve Contribution	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
25 Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions	\$ 14,688	\$ 16,475	\$ 17,260	Revised to add miscellaneous subs.
26 Legal Publications	\$ 7,823	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	
27 Manager's Discretionary Budget	\$ 11,968	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
28 Meeting Expenses	\$ 3,693	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
29 Office Cleaning	\$ 3,251	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,200	
30 Office Supplies & Expenses	\$ 9,963	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,000	
31 Payroll Exp	\$ 718,220	\$ 799,151	\$ 988,487	Final payroll number also includes 2 WM interns
32 Postage	\$ 1,838	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	
33 Telephone	\$ 7,951	\$ 7,110	\$ 9,000	Slight increase based on actuals
34 Utilities	\$ 18,184	\$ 9,800	\$ 6,000	
35 Vehicle Expenses	\$ 3,065	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,500	Reduction based on actual
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,038,581	\$ 1,152,006	\$ 1,373,007	
Non-Operating Expenses				
36 Aquatic Nuisance Species	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	
37 Asp Subordination Report	\$ 10,752	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,000	
38 Aspinall Contracts	\$ 18,603	\$ 21,920	\$ 21,000	
39 City of Gunnison Electronics Cleanup	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
40 Consulting/Engineering	\$ 20,980	\$ 46,000	\$ 50,000	
41 Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
42 Colorado Dust on Snow	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	
43 Drought Contingency Contribution	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	
44 District Grant Program	\$ 243,609	\$ 430,190	\$ 300,000	
45 Gunnison River Festival	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,000	Increased by \$1,000
46 Endangered Fish Recovery Program	\$ 6,207	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,750	
47 Lake Fork Conservancy	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
48 Lake San Cristobal Expenses	\$ 13,464	\$ 13,464	\$ 13,464	
49 Public Outreach and Education	\$ 46,554	\$ 61,485	\$ 41,270	
50 Regional Water Supply Improvement	\$ 158,574	\$ 450,500	\$ 588,375	Increased Taylor River Modeling and cloudseedin
51 Strategic Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	Added additional line item
52 Taylor Park Project Expense	\$ 7,436	\$ 7,436	\$ 7,500	
53 Watershed Management Expense	\$ 259,660	\$ 379,914	\$ 287,533	
54 Wet Meadows Expense	\$ 200,014	\$ 330,470	\$ 366,356	included actual anticipated expenses
55 Water Quality Monitoring	\$ 214,622	\$ 169,930	\$ 207,484	
TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,233,975	\$ 1,986,309	\$ 2,010,232	
56 Capital Outlay Expense	\$ 814,073	\$ 207,000	\$ 55,000	
57 Contingency	\$ -	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	
58 Grant Program Commitment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 255,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,086,629	\$ 2,217,309	\$ 3,717,239	
REVENUES OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ (419,656)	\$ (846,300)	\$ (549,411)	

MEMORANDUM



TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors
FROM: Beverly Richards, Office Manager
Sonja Chavez, General Manager
DATE: October 28, 2024
SUBJECT: Draft 2025 UGRWCD Budget

Enclosed is a summary of changes made to the Draft 2025 budget since the September 2024 meeting. Changes include:

- Line 2 – Building Rental Income – Included actual amount for rental of Unit C.
- Line 5 – Property Tax income – Figures now represent draft valuations received.
- Line 8 – Wet Meadows Income – Includes actual anticipated income for the Wet Meadows Program.
- Line 10 – Vehicle Income – Amount includes vehicle income included in Wet Meadows Program funding sources.
- Line 15 – BOD Expenses – Increased this amount to accommodate additional conference attendance by board members.
- Line 21 – Computer Expenses – Increased the amount of Computer Repair/IT Support from \$4,800 to \$12,000 as these expenses will now be \$1,000 per month rather than \$400. Please see [email](#) from Greg Larson.
- Line 25 – Dues and Subscriptions – Included all miscellaneous dues and subscriptions. These include but are not limited to GoDaddy annual fee for web service, DropBox file storage service, Zoom annual conference fee, and newspaper subscription fees.
- Line 31 – Payroll – Includes final proposed payroll numbers discussed with Executive Committee. The line item was also updated to include payroll and payroll taxes for two Wet Meadow Program interns in anticipation of Board approval.
- Line 33 – Telephone – Increased this amount slightly to include costs for two new employees to the Verizon mobile phone plan.
- Line 35 -Vehicle Expense – Reduced this line item based upon actual expenses in 2024 to date.

- Line 45 – Gunnison River Festival – Increased the amount from \$11,000 to \$12,000 as the District’s program contribution amount.
- Line 50 – Regional Water Supply – Increased Taylor River Modeling from \$11,000 to \$27,500 to reflect actual amount. Increased Cloudseeding amount to include ancillary expenses incurred as part of the program. Increased ASO amount from \$50,000 to \$55,000 to reflect UGRWCD 2025 contribution.
- Line Item 51 – Strategic Planning – This is a new line item for expenses associated with District strategic planning.
- Line 54 – Wet Meadows Expenses – Includes refined actual anticipated expenses for the program.

Beverly Richards

From: Greg Larson <greg@glcomputers.net>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 5:45 PM
To: Beverly Richards
Subject: RE: 2025 Contract

I do not foresee that happening unless it is a major project like the move. Otherwise no there would not be and increase.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF OUR NEW MAILING AND SHIPPING ADDRESS

Greg Larson
GL Computer Service
125 W. Virginia #107
Gunnison, Colorado 81230

970-641-4051

From: Beverly Richards <beverly@ugrwcd.org>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 5:39 PM
To: Greg Larson <greg@glcomputers.net>
Subject: RE: 2025 Contract

[*** This email originated from outside GL Computer Service - PLEASE USE CAUTION OPENING LINKS, ATTACHMENTS OR REPLYING ***]

Thank you for the clarification. So, if we go over the 6.5 hours, will there be an additional charge for that time?

Beverly Richards
Office Manager/Senior Program Manager
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite A
Gunnison, CO 81230
(970) 641-6065
(970) 209-0020 (Cell)



PUBLIC RECORDS NOTICE: Under Title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes, this email and responses, unless otherwise made confidential by law, may be subject to the Colorado Open Records Act and may be subject to public inspection under § 24-72-203.

From: Greg Larson <greg@glcomputers.net>

Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 4:54 PM

To: Beverly Richards <beverly@ugrwcd.org>

Subject: 2025 Contract

Hi Beverly

As I had mentioned I will have to increase our monthly rate from the current \$400 / month to \$1000 / Month. This is to cover the increase in employees and computers the District has. Our standard rate is \$150/hour which will give us up to 6.5 hours per month.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF OUR NEW MAILING AND SHIPPING ADDRESS

Greg Larson

GL Computer Service

125 W. Virginia #107

Gunnison, Colorado 81230

970-641-4051

AGENDA ITEM 7

Basin Water Supply

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board Members

FROM: Beverly Richards, Office Manager/Senior Program Manager

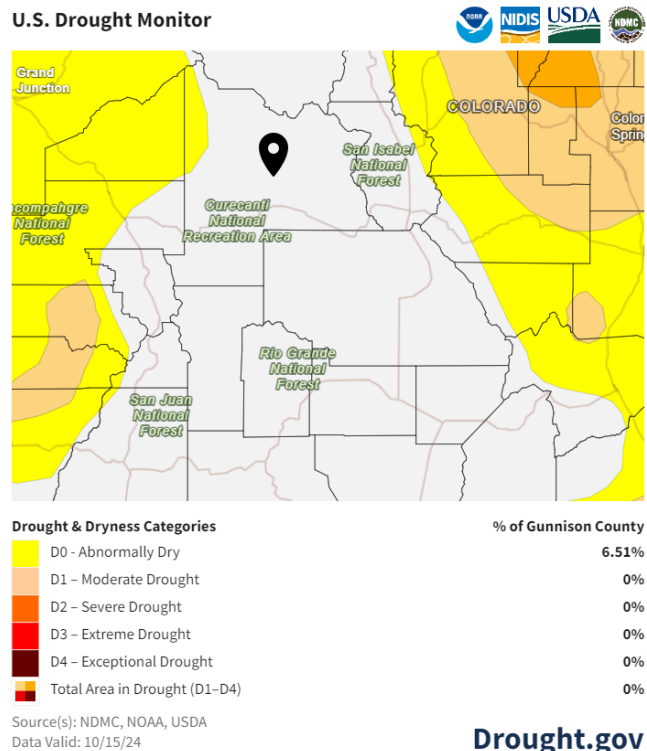
DATE: October 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Basin Water Supply Information

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

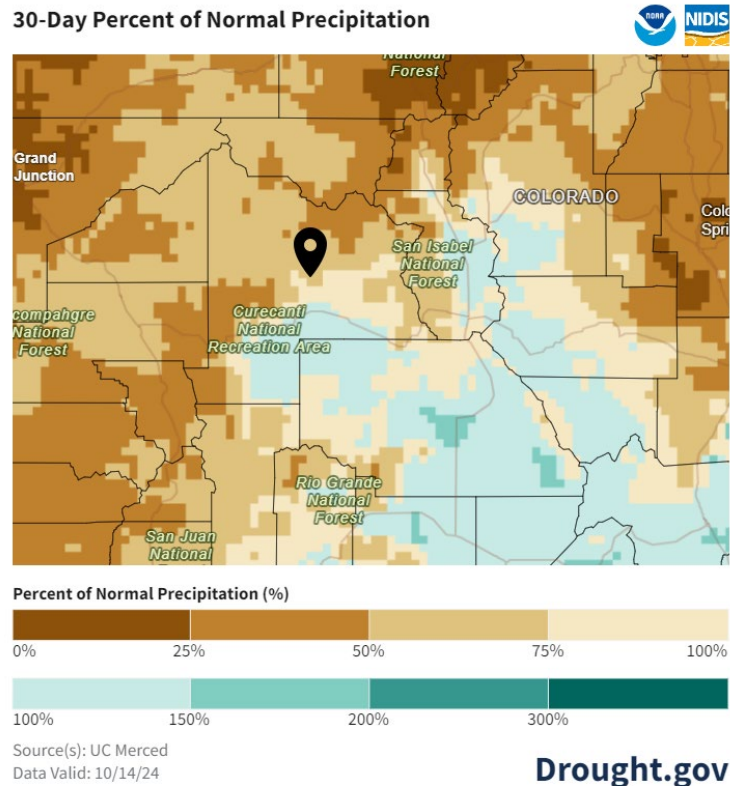
Current Conditions – Drought

According to the *Drought Monitor* dated October 15, 2024, 30% of the entire state is now experiencing no drought conditions, this is a decline from the September report where 60% of the state was experiencing no drought conditions. A small portion (7%) of Gunnison County has moved into abnormally dry (D0) conditions while 100% of Saguache and Hinsdale Counties still register no drought conditions as shown in the figure below. The drought monitor uses precipitation, temperature, and soil moisture to make their determinations.



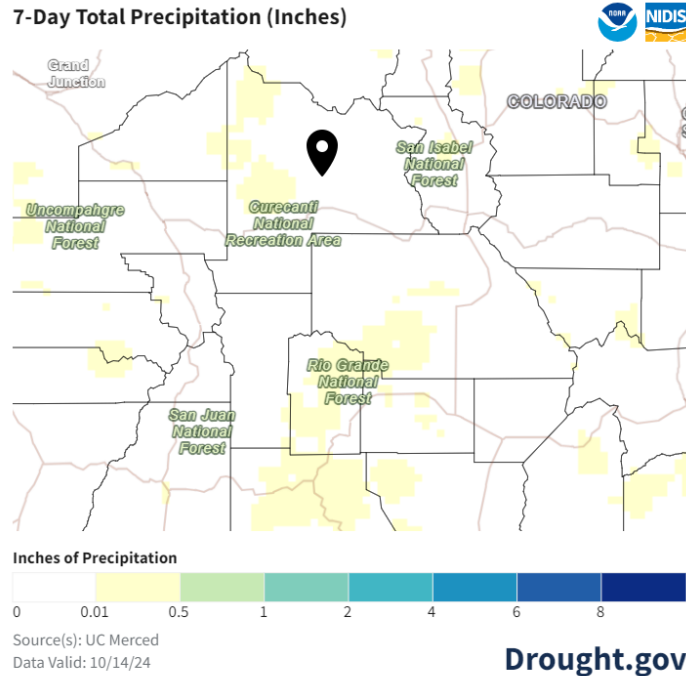
Precipitation

Precipitation in the basin over the past 30 days (September 15 – October 14) has been variable with precipitation amounts ranging from 150% in small areas to 25% of normal for that time frame. (*Drought.gov, October 14, 2024*)

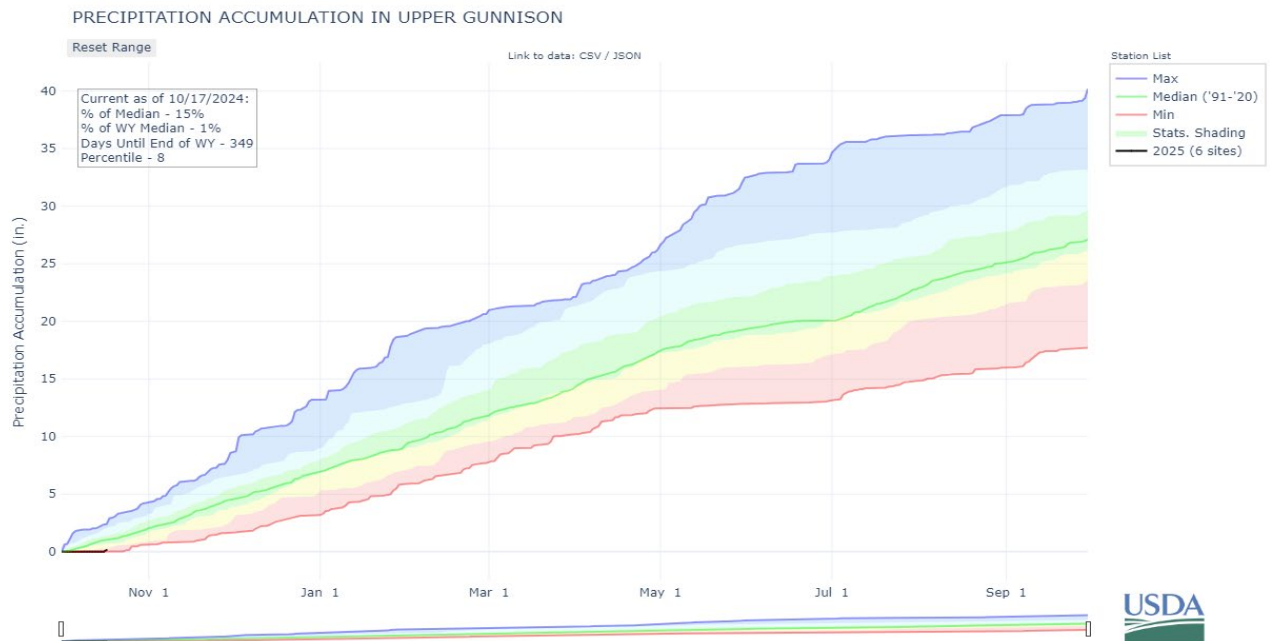


The figure provided below breaks down the precipitation amounts for the past 7 days (October 8-October 14) and this shows that precipitation amounts in the area have been very low, only 0.01” to 0.5” where precipitation occurred. (*Drought.gov, October 14, 2024*)

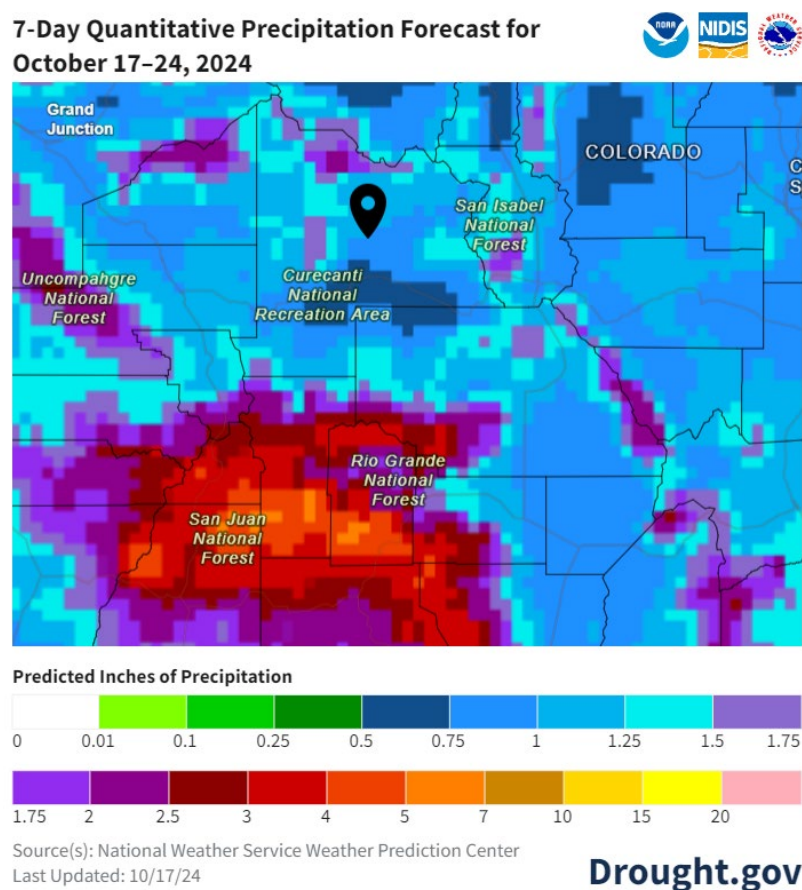
7-Day Total Precipitation (Inches)



Below you will find the precipitation trend graph for the Upper Gunnison Basin for the entire water year to date (*NRCS, October 17, 2024*) which shows that we are currently at 15% of the median for the year. The graph also shows a slight uptick on October 17th where precipitation was registered at the Slumgullion and Porphyry Creek. This information is provided from a compilation of data from eight SNOTEL sites located in the basin where precipitation is measured.



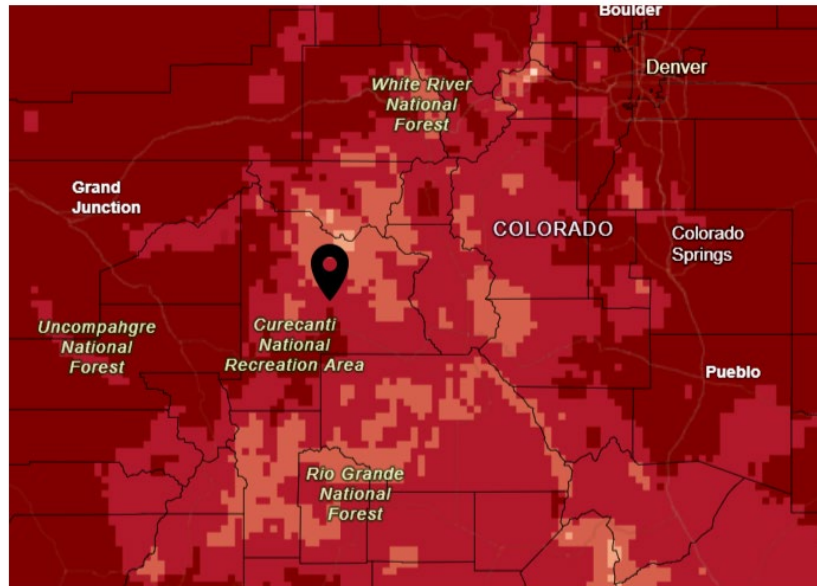
However, the 7-day quantitative forecast October 17-October 24) for the Upper Gunnison Basin (*Drought.gov, October 17, 2024*) indicates that precipitation amounts are forecasted to range anywhere from 0.75 inches to 7 inches in some southern areas of the basin.



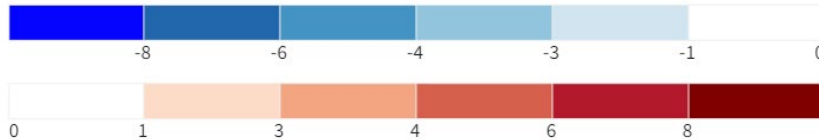
Temperature

As shown in the figure provided below, the temperature for the same time period was warmer than normal for most of the basin, ranging from one to six degrees above the normal historical average (1991-2020). This could be a strong driver for the return of abnormally dry conditions in the western part of Gunnison County (*Drought.gov, October 14, 2024*)

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



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

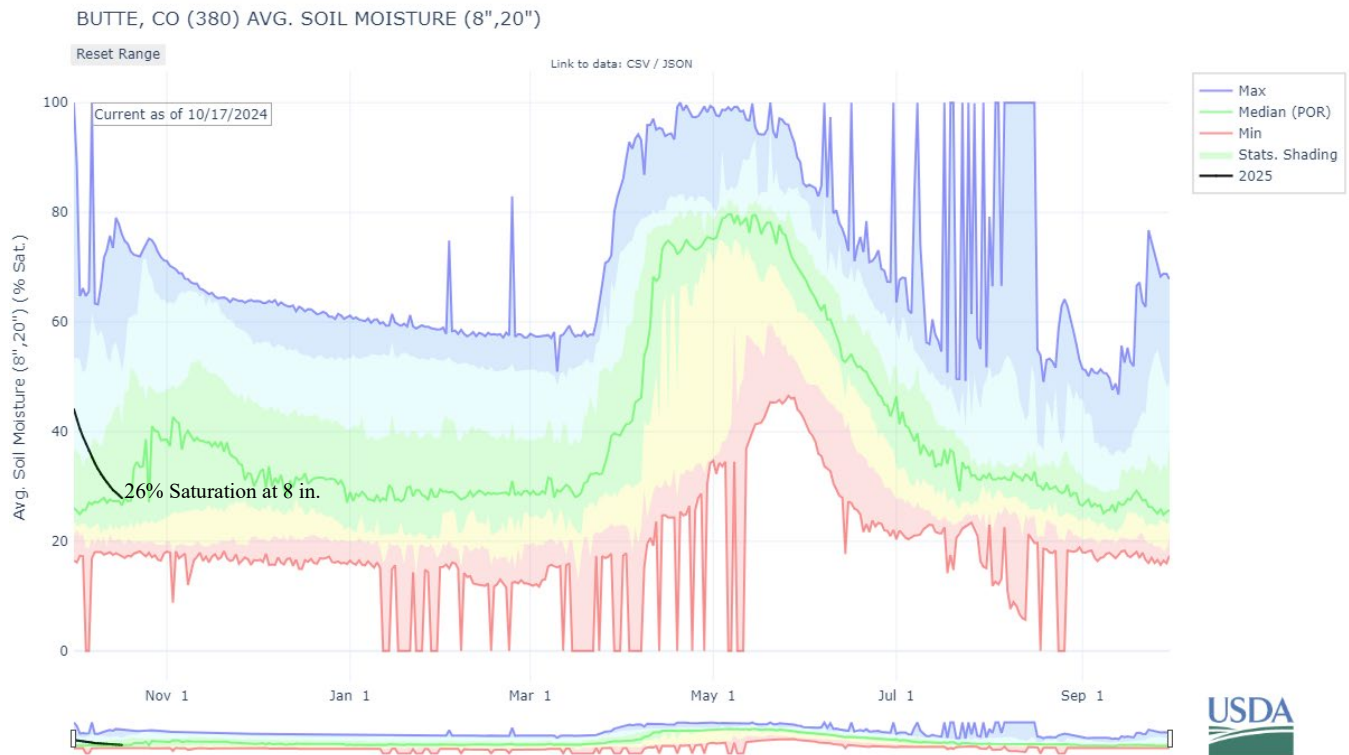


Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 10/14/24

Drought.gov

Soil Moisture

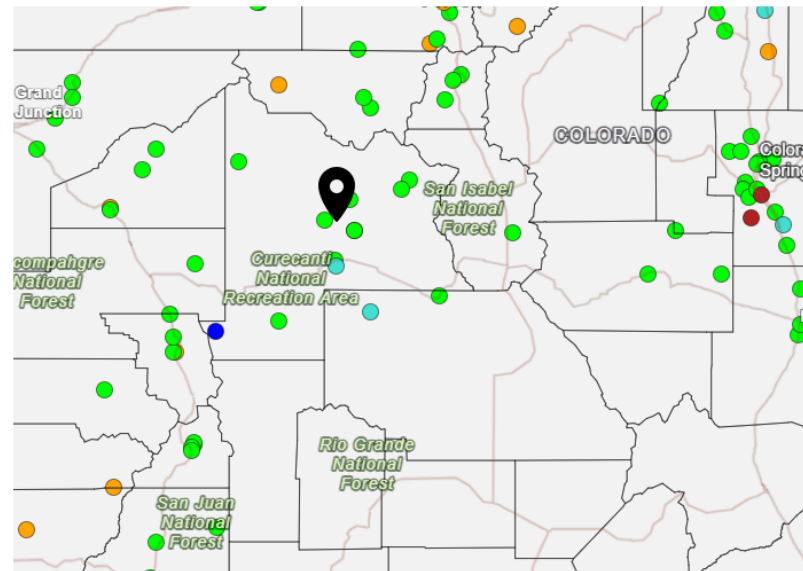
The plot provided below (*NRCS, October 17, 2024*) shows soil moisture conditions at the Butte SNOTEL site. This plot indicates that soils are drying out as soil saturation is currently only at 26% of the average for this date at a depth of 8 inches. However, this is 105% of the historical average which indicates that dry soils are common at this time of year.



Streamflow Information

The figure below (*Drought.gov, October 17, 2024*) shows that a number of gage sites in the basin are still showing normal to above normal streamflows for the past 28 days compared to historical conditions.

28-Day Average Streamflow: Gunnison County



Streamflow Conditions



Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey

Data Valid: 10/17/24

Drought.gov

Actual streamflow amounts are reflected in the table provided below (*CDSS, October 17, 2024*). This information shows that the majority of the sites are below the historical average for this date but could be considered normal flows for this time of year.

Station Name	October 17, 2024 (cfs)	Historical Average October 17 (cfs)
Gunnison River near Gunnison	332	384
Tomichi Creek at Sargent's	31	31
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	112	93
Taylor River at Taylor Park	55	56
Taylor River blw Taylor Park Reservoir	127	164
Taylor River at Almont	195	229
Slate River abv Baxter Gulch	16	33
Coal Creek abv McCormick Ditch	6	5
East River blw Cement Creek	86	112
East River at Almont	86	117
Ohio Creek near Baldwin	16	25
Lake Fork blw Lake San Cristobal	28	26
Henson Creek at Lake City	27	31
Lake Fork at Gateview	77	98

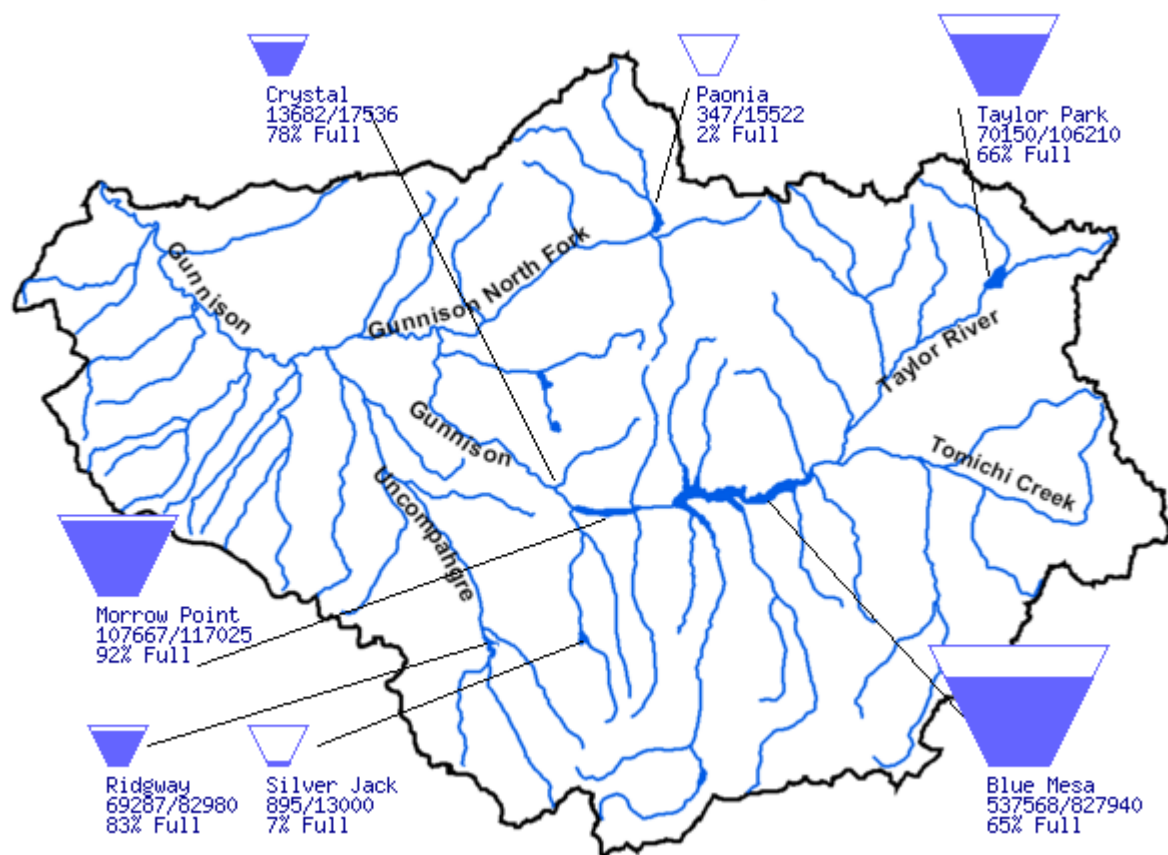
Reservoir Storage and Operations

Reservoir storage in the entire Gunnison Basin is at 56% of full which is a decrease of 10% from last month's report. This is due to the complete drawing down of the smaller reservoirs in the system with the irrigation season ending. These include Paonia (2% full) and Silver Jack (7% full) Reservoirs.

The reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison Basin which includes Taylor Park and Blue Mesa, are at 66% and 65% full, respectively, for a total reservoir storage amount in the upper basin of 65% full which is a 9% decrease from last month. These amounts are reflected in the tea-cup diagram below dated October 16, 2024 (*USBR, River Basin Tea-cup Diagrams*).

Data Current as of:
10/16/2024

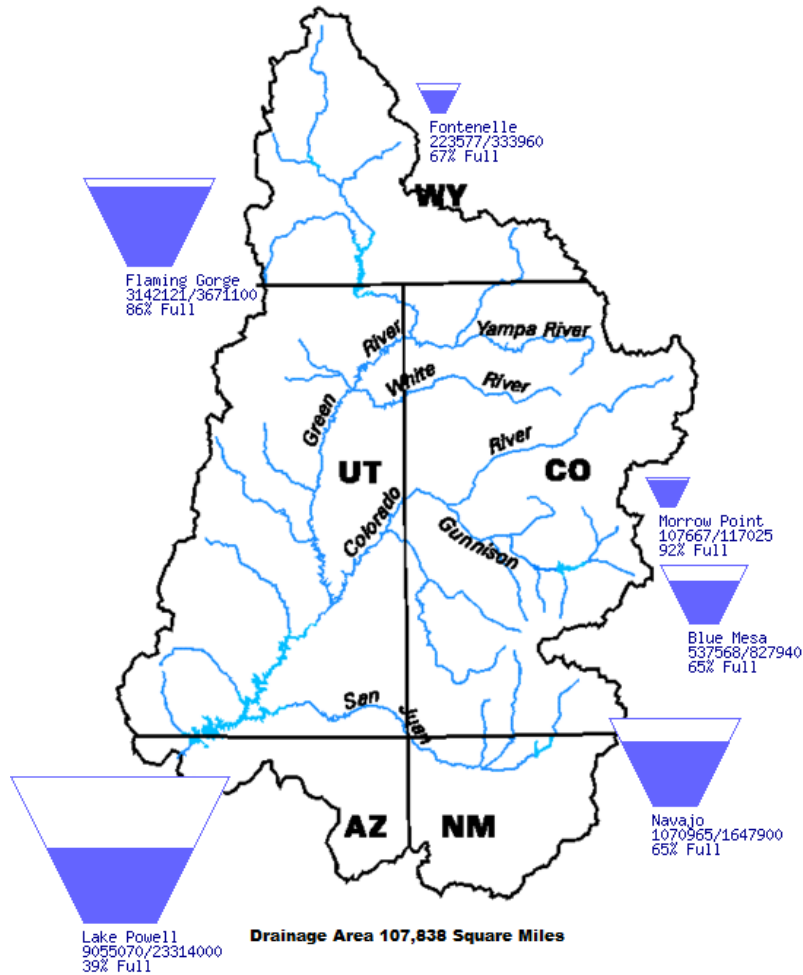
Gunnison River Basin, CO



Reservoir storage in the Upper Colorado River Basin is now at 69% full, which is a decrease of 4% from last month's report. This is reflected in the tea-cup diagram below dated October 16, 2024.

Data Current as of:
10/16/2024

Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



Aspinall Unit Operations

The following operations information is from the Aspinall Unit Operations webpage (*US Bureau of Reclamation dated October 4, 2024*)

The unregulated inflow volume in September to Blue Mesa was 42,300 acre-feet which is 121% of normal. Unregulated inflow volumes forecasted for Blue Mesa for the next three months (October, November, and December) are projected to be: 31,000 acre-feet or 85% of average, 27,000 acre-feet which is 91% of average, and 25,000 acre-feet or 99% of average, respectively.

The forecasted WY2025 unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa is projected to be a total of 885,000 acre-feet which is 98% of average. The water supply period (April-July) for 2025 is currently forecasted to have an unregulated inflow volume of 633,000 acre-feet or 97% of average.

On July 9, 2024, the elevation of Blue Mesa reached its peak for the water year at 7,499 feet above sea

level and Blue Mesa storage reached 79% full. Blue Mesa ended WY24 at an elevation of 7487.54 feet with about 558,603 acre-feet of storage which was 68% of capacity.

We received this information from Erik Knight with the *US Bureau of Reclamation* on October 16, 2024. Based on this information, it is likely the storage will continue to decline before for the end of the calendar year as the requirement is to maintain these flows through December.

Releases from the Aspinall Unit will be decreased from 1,400 cfs to 1,350 cfs today, October 16th. Releases are being decreased as flows on the lower Gunnison River continue to be above the baseflow target of 1,050 cfs. Flows in the lower Gunnison River are currently above the baseflow target of 1,050 cfs. River flows are expected to remain above the baseflow target for the foreseeable future.

Pursuant to the Aspinall Unit Operations Record of Decision (ROD), the baseflow target in the lower Gunnison River, as measured at the Whitewater gage, is 1,050 cfs for August through December. Currently, Gunnison Tunnel diversions are 1,050 cfs and flows in the Gunnison River through the Black Canyon are around 420. After this release change Gunnison Tunnel diversions will still be 1,050 cfs and flows in the Gunnison River through the Black Canyon will be around 370 cfs. Current flow information is obtained from provisional data that may undergo revision subsequent to review. This scheduled release change is subject to changes in river flows and weather conditions.

Lake Powell Operations

This information is provided by the *Lake Powell Water Database* webpage (lakepowell.water-data.com) and is dated October 16, 2024.

Lake Powell elevation is currently at 3576.98 feet with a content of 9.05 million acre-feet (maf) or 39% full. Total inflows for WY24 to date are 170,076 acre-feet which is 58% of the historical average for October 16th. The total releases out of Glen Canyon Dam for WY25 to date have 250,770 acre-feet which is 3% of the minimum required 7.5 maf for the water year.

During WY25 to date, storage has fallen by 86,624 acre-feet with total outflows exceeding total inflows by 80,694 acre-feet. The inflows for WY25 are 79% of average. The thirty-four tracked reservoirs above Lake Powell are currently at 76% of capacity and the rivers feeding into Lake Powell are running at 61% of the October 16th average. Lake Powell is now 123.02 feet below the full pool.

AGENDA ITEM 8

**General Manager, Staff and
Committee Reports**

MEMORANDUM



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Sonja Chavez, General Manager
DATE: October 22, 2024
SUBJECT: Committee, Treasurer & General Manager Report (October)

I. Executive Committee Meeting

- A. Update provided by President McPhail on Executive Management performance reviews.
- B. 2025 Appointment of Officers
 - 1. President
 - 2. Vice President
 - 3. Secretary
 - 4. Treasure

II. Treasurer's Report

- A. **Investments:** UGRWCD has one treasury bond maturing in November and two CD's (maturing in December) for a total of \$506,116. Staff reached out to our investment advisor at LPL who indicated that it's too early to determine investment opportunities with two more Federal Reserve meetings scheduled and rumor of two possible interest rate reductions and an election. His advice was to remain conservative. That being said, UGRWCD will move any maturing investments into ColoTrust Plus where we have a monthly yield of 5.2684% (per September 2024 statement).
- B. **Other Sources of Revenue:** UGRWCD is working on a three-year lease agreement with our new tenant in Unit C. Once finalized this will be an additional source of stable revenue to the District.

III. General Manager Report

A. Projects & Fundraising

UGRWCD staff are working on grant applications to the State of Colorado, Colorado Water Plan Grant and the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership in support of the Agricultural Irrigation Return Flow Study. We plan to submit these applications no later than November 22.

B. Watershed Management Planning

1. **Wetland Assessment Report Review:** Water Resources Project Manager, Bailey Friedman, will give a brief overview of her review and assessment of the draft GEI Wetland Assessment and recommendations to finalize the report for public distribution.
2. **Completion of Watershed Plan for Phase 2:** Ms. Friedman will be assuming the WMP project management duties. This includes overseeing the completion of the Phase 2 Final Report, coordination of education and outreach events, etc., related to the Upper Gunnison Watershed and Stream Management Planning grant.

C. WQCD Reg 87: Dredge & Fill – October 2024 Stream Mitigation Workshop

Please see attached **memorandum** from Bailey Friedman (Water Resources Project Manager) summarizing staff notes from the October 2024 CDPHE Regulation 87 Dredge and Fill: Stream Mitigation Workshop webinar.

D. Wet Meadows Program

Wet Meadows Partners met on October 22 for their End of Season meeting. Meeting agenda focused on reviewing 2024 program activities, monitoring and research needs, and partner planning for the 2025 field season.

1. UGRWCD is requesting board authorization to hire two seasonal interns/technicians. Please see attached **memorandum** from Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadow Program Coordinator.

Board Action Requested: Hire two 2025 seasonal Wet Meadow Program Interns for 15 weeks at a cost not to exceed \$32,000 and which will be reimbursed through the UGRWCD 2025 BLM Cooperative Agreement.

2. Staff is requesting Board discussion related to the potential purchase of a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) for moving rock and a flatbed trailer for transporting the UTV. A daily per diem could be charged on projects for use of the UTV to recoup expenses. Estimating cost at around \$25,000.

E. Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) Update

1. The second stakeholder meeting attracted 32 participants from a diverse range of water sectors. The group reviewed the Upper Gunnison DCP goals and refined *potential mitigation and response actions*.

2. We have successfully completed 4 out of 5 workshops, focusing on *potential mitigation and response actions* and were tailored to each water user group: municipalities, environment, agencies, and recreation. The final workshop will be working directly with the agricultural community. UGRWCD decided to cancel the Ag DCP meeting out of respect for and upon the news of the passing of Polly Spann.
3. A Task Force meeting was held on October 23rd, where members reviewed and refined ideas from stakeholders and workshop attendees regarding goals, potential mitigation strategies, and response actions for the DCP. Additionally, the Task Force discussed engaging in the communications aspect of the DCP.

F. Education and Outreach Update

1. Rotary held their fishing tournament on Saturday, September 28 and 29, 2024. They ended up with 40 participants, which included some walk-ins. Participants' entry fees are all thrown back into the pot for the winners' prizes. All sponsorship monies support the Rotary's college scholarship program for Gunnison area youth. They give away three scholarships each year: One for a student selecting any four-year university; one for a student at Western Colorado University and one for a student attending a trade school. In addition to the sponsorship fee of \$1,000, we also provided "Welcome to our Watershed" rack cards, water bottles and 65th Anniversary magnetic chip clips for all of the participants (A few photos from the event will be displayed during the board meeting dinner). Rotary plans to move the fishing tournament back to May in 2025, where they have traditionally had close to 150 participants.
2. The Education and Outreach Committee approved a Mini-Grant in the amount of \$500 for the Headwaters Conference at Western Colorado University on October 25th and 26th. Keynote speaker will be Robert Sakata, Agricultural Water Policy Advisor from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, followed by a panel of local producers discussing water use and management, and regenerative agriculture in the Gunnison Valley. On Saturday, agricultural producers in the valley will host two field trip options and two workshop options. The conference aims to educate participants on innovative water-sharing practices and how producers are adapting to changing climate, drought and water scarcity in the west. On the 26th we will sponsor a series of workshops on agriculture in the basin. Stacy McPhail from Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy will be hosting a workshop on the relationship between conserved ranchlands and water resources in the Gunnison basin. Mini-grant funds from the UGRWCD will be used to support the Saturday workshops. The public is welcome to attend.

G. Colorado River District (CRD) 4rd Quarter October Board Mtg

1. **Shoshone Permanency:** Preparing a Bureau of Reclamation B2E application for grant funding (IRA Section 50233 - \$450M available for projects with environmental benefit) in support of Shoshone Permanency. They have obtained over 30 formal letters of support and the support of Governor Polis and state and federal delegation. Funds raised to date \$56M.

Local Funding Commitments (as of 10/02/2024)

- Garfield County \$3 million
- Eagle County \$2 million
- City of Glenwood Springs \$2 million
- Ute Water Conservancy District \$2 million
- Eagle River Water and Sanitation District and Upper Eagle Regional
- Water Authority \$1 million
- Grand County \$1 million
- City of Grand Junction \$1 million
- Mesa County \$1 million
- Summit County \$1 million
- Colorado Mesa University \$500,000
- Clifton Water District \$250,000
- Grand Valley Irrigation Company \$250,000
- Basalt Water Conservancy District \$100,000
- Grand Valley Power \$100,000
- Grand Valley Water Users Association \$100,000
- Middle Park Water Conservancy District \$100,000
- Orchard Mesa Irrigation District \$100,000
- City of Rifle \$100,000
- Snowmass Water & Sanitation District \$100,000
- Town of Silverthorne \$100,000
- Mesa County Irrigation District \$50,000
- Palisade Irrigation District \$50,000
- West Divide Water Conservancy District \$50,000
- Kobe Water Authority \$25,000

Total: \$15.975M

CRD continuing Historic Use Analysis for Shoshone Water Right.

2. **Budget Hearings:** Amendments to 2024 Budget and Adoption of 2025 Budgets.
3. **Community Funding Partnership Awards:** Gunnison River Basin Drought Resiliency & Restoration Project (TU, Upper and Lower Gunnison Basin Projects) and Sheriff Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation Construction Project (Town of Oak Creek, Yampa Basin).

- 4. Colorado River Interstate and Intrastate Update:** Continuing analysis of modeling proposals for post 2026 operating guidelines for Lake Powell and Mead. Stated BOR goal is to have the draft EIS out by end of 2024 and preferred stated path of seven state consensus. On-going areas of disagreement:
- a.** Lower Basin insistence on mandatory reductions in consumptive use in Upper Basin.
 - b.** Identification and use of upper basin initial Colorado River Storage Project Act (CRSP) reservoirs (Flaming Gorge, Aspinall and Navajo) to meet lower basin needs in times of severe shortage.
 - c.** Setting annual presumptive release from the Glen Canyon at 8.23 million acre-feet (a release level which ignores the wording of the 1922 Compact and a future impacted by climate change).
 - d.** Mutually acceptable resolution around avoidance of compact compliance litigation.

IV. Scientific Endeavors

Update provided by Director Rosemary Carroll.

MEMORANDUM



TO: UGRWCD Board or Directors

FROM: Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Project Manager

DATE: October 21, 2024

SUBJECT: Reg. 87 – Dredge and Fill Stakeholder Meeting on 10/1/2024 Overview

The following is a summary of UGRWCD Draft Summary Notes from the October 1 WQCD Reg. 87 – Dredge and Fill Stakeholder Meeting as we understood it. For complete information, interested parties can utilize the following link to listen to the full webinar:

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dredge-and-fill-engagement>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JlwMXVodk0A_cbajKelcvAygoIsjbFWG

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SeHoRqcER0agTSd7LklCNdabs1ttEm7o>

Status of Division Implementation: HB24-1279

- \$550-650k per year to implement HB
- Currently hiring for Dredge and Fill Protection Unit
- Tracking Clean Water Policy 17
- Drafting Isolated State Water General Authorization
- Status of Implementation
 - Develop and issue temp authorizations (in progress)
 - Develop a statewide general authorization for discharges to isolated state waters
 - Recognize Corps framework for permits for dredge or fill in non WOTUS (start Jan 1, 2025)

Regulation 87 Development

- Draft target date to share = December 2024
- Draft regulation discussions throughout 2025
- Collect and incorporate feedback for proposal Jan – August 2025
- Anticipate rulemaking to begin in Aug. 2025

Mitigation types – Overview

- Mitigation Banking
 - Allows permittees to buy credits from a third-party sponsor, who provides advance offsite mitigation and assumes liability
- In-Lieu Fee
 - Involve non-profits for agencies pooling payments from permittees for offsite mitigation, with liability transferred to the sponsor after impacts occur
- Permittee Responsibility
 - Makes the permittee fully responsible for onsite or offsite mitigation, which can be done in advance, concurrently, or after impacts

Mitigation Methods – Overview

- Establishment (creation)
 - The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at a site
- Restoration (re-establishment and rehabilitation)
 - The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource
- Enhancement
 - The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s)
- Preservation
 - The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources

Each of the above types and methods has their benefits and challenges.

UGRWCD staff will continue to actively participate in all meetings and will report back to the Board on a regular basis.

Next Meeting: Wednesday November 6, 2024

To register for meetings, follow this link:

2024 Meetings -

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ufumprDMuEtLyTxuRd57_4iuPix_NQUFa#/registration

2025 Meetings –

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ufumprDMuEtLyTxuRd57_4iuPix_NQUFa#/registration

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors
FROM: Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Program Coordinator
DATE: 28 October 2024
SUBJECT: Wet Meadows Program Budget Request



I. Interns

Background: In September 2024, UGRWCD was awarded a cooperative agreement with the BLM for the Upper Gunnison Basin Wet Meadows Capacity Building Project totaling \$629,403 over the next 5 years.

In 2023, UGRWCD hired two seasonal restoration interns through Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC), a youth corps program based out of Grand Junction, CO. Their hourly wage was paid using grant funds from the Great Outdoors Colorado Planning & Capacity Building Grant.

UGRWCD was anticipating hiring two seasonal restoration interns through WCCC again for the 2025 field season; however, we were informed by BLM grant specialists that we cannot use agency funding to hire youth corps, such as WCCC as they now have a separate funding pool to support conservation crews which they usually hire directly. UGRWCD consulted with BLM and we can hire seasonal interns directly as UGRWCD staff and seek reimbursement for all expenses from our 2025 BLM Cooperative Agreement.

In 2025, \$136,491 is allocated for wet meadow program activities. The cooperative agreement covers intern hourly pay, workers compensation insurance, payroll taxes, and three paid holidays. 2025 interns will be paid \$21.00/hour and work a 40-hour work week for a total of 15 weeks. There will be no cost to the District.

Restoration interns are invaluable to the Wet Meadows Program as they help carry out “on the ground” project implementation by collecting and staging material, building structures, assisting with volunteer training events, conducting site assessments, and assisting contractors with restoration monitoring and data collection. Hiring seasonal interns also fulfills our multi-agency shared goal of helping to train the next generation of water resource professionals.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION: Hire two 2025 seasonal UGRWCD Wet Meadow Program interns at a cost not to exceed \$32,000 which will be reimbursed through the 2025 BLM Cooperative Agreement.

II. Utility Terrain Vehicle and Flatbed Trailer

Wet Meadows staff would like to discuss with the board, the ability to possibly purchase a utility terrain vehicle and flatbed trailer.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Scientific Endeavors

AGENDA ITEM 9

Miscellaneous Matters

AGENDA ITEM 10

Citizen Comments

AGENDA ITEM 11

Future Meetings

FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- ▶ Veterans Day Holiday-Offices Closed - November 11, 2024
- ▶ Watershed Management Planning Comm. Mtg-November 13, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.
- ▶ Grants Committee Meeting - November 21, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Board Meeting - November 25, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Board and Staff Holiday Party - November ??
- ▶ Thanksgiving Holiday - Offices Closed - November 28 and 29, 2024
- ▶ UGRWCD Board Meeting (Budget) - December 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ Christmas Holiday - Offices Closed - December 24 and 25, 2024
- ▶ Colorado Water Congress Conference 2025 Annual Convention January 29 - 31 , 2025 at Hyatt Regency Aurora Denver Conference Center

AGENDA ITEM 12

Summary of Action Items

AGENDA ITEM 13

Adjournment