



## *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

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

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA – REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

Monday, November 25, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.  
210 West Spencer, Suite A, Gunnison

Zoom Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsf-6tqzgpG9Bi1Fu8QK12LDscA5oBJ1j>

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

#### **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

- |                  |           |  |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>5:00 p.m.</b> | <b>1.</b> | <b>Call to Order</b>   |
| <b>5:01 p.m.</b> | <b>2.</b> | <b>Agenda Approval</b>   |
| <b>5:03 p.m.</b> | <b>3.</b> | <b>Consent Agenda Items:</b> Any of the following items may be removed for discussion from the consent agenda at the request of any Board member or citizen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of October 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes</li><li>• Monthly Budget Summary</li><li>• Consideration of Expenses</li></ul> |
| <b>5:10 p.m.</b> | <b>4.</b> | <b>General Counsel Update</b>  |
| <b>5:20 p.m.</b> | <b>5.</b> | <b>General Manager Report</b>  |

#### **BUDGET HEARING**

- |                  |           |  |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>5:31 p.m.</b> | <b>6.</b> | <b>Public Hearing on 2025 Draft Budget</b> |
| <b>5:41 p.m.</b> | <b>7.</b> | <b>Citizen Comments on 2025 Budget</b>     |

- 5:45 p.m. 8. Board Discussion on Public Hearing Comments**
- 5:50 p.m. 9. Adjournment**
- 6:00 p.m. 10. Board, Staff and Significant Other Holiday Gathering with refreshments and entertainment (in the Board Conference Room)**

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, October 28, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) conducted a regular Board meeting on Monday, October 28, 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 (via Zoom), Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania, Rosemary Carroll, John Perusek, Mike Rogers (via Zoom), Don Sabrowski, and Brooke Zanetell.

Board members absent: Andy Spann

Others present:

Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager  
Jeff Deems, Airborne Snow Observatory (via Zoom)  
Bailey Friedman, UGRWCD Water Resources Project Manager  
John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel  
Alana Nichols, UGRWCD Fellow  
Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Office/Senior Program Manager  
Tom Rozman, Colorado Division of Water Resources  
Sue Uerling, UGRWCD Administrative Asst./Communications Specialist  
Ari Yamaguchi, UGRWCD Water Resources Technician  
Baxter and Jean Vieux, Applied Research Team

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

President McPhail announced the passing of Polly Spann (wife of former Board member, Lee Spann) and Matt Peacock (former Board member).

General Manager Sonja Chavez introduced Bailey Friedman as the new Water Resources Project Manager. Ms. Friedman shared a bit about her background and said she is glad to be in Gunnison.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**Director John Perusek moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of the agenda as presented. The motion carried.**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Director Rosemary Carroll moved and Director Julie Nania seconded approval of the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.**

#### **4. GENERAL COUNSEL UPDATE**

General Counsel John McCLOW reported that he met with the Bureau of Reclamation on October 21<sup>st</sup> regarding the extension of the 1975 Agreement. The Basis of Negotiation has been signed and the next step will be a public negotiation process. On November 5, 2024, they will hold a technical meeting to discuss operations. Each party to the Agreement will designate a negotiating team and the teams will schedule negotiation meetings. Counselor McCLOW offered that public negotiation meetings could be held in the District Conference Room. These will be scheduled in January 2025.

He also reported that he has been reviewing the Board Member Manual and said it will need several revisions. Some of the material is no longer valid, some of the information has changed or been updated and many of the Board policies no longer accurately reflect current procedures. He will be presenting proposed policy changes at the next Board meeting for consideration.

#### **5. PRESENTATION BY JEAN AND BAXTER VIEUX OF APPLIED RESEARCH TEAM ON MAPPING SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT WITH WEATHER RADAR**

General Manager Sonja Chavez updated the Board that the Gunnison Gap Weather Radar was approved by the BLM for placement on the Big Mesa. She noted that the original agreement was for a permanent radar station and the one that will be installed there is mounted on a trailer and therefore required additional review and consultation. She encouraged Vern Tharpe to try to get the radar to the location in the next few weeks before the snow starts accumulating.

Jean Vieux introduced herself as CEO of Applied Research Team, Inc. and introduced her husband, Baxter, who is a PhD and the Chief Engineer and Scientist for the organization. The two of them have been studying precipitation from weather radar for several decades and moved to Colorado 12 years ago at which time they added snow studies to their research. They are calling their latest study Gunnison SnowQ. Mrs. Vieux explained that SnowQ<sup>TM</sup> has a patent pending and uses weather radar combined with physics-guided machine learning and other data resources (such as ASO and SAR) to train and measure snowfall and track snow water equivalency (which they refer to as snow quotient). She noted that they have been conducting research and processing data for two locations to date in Colorado, one on the Grand Mesa area and one in the Rio Grande area. By adding the Upper Gunnison to this mix, Ms. Vieux reported that there would be some overlapping study plots for each of these locations which will provide useful data for all three sites. She noted that currently no one else is providing this kind of SnowQ data commercially.

Baxter Vieux said their system uses Physics Based Machine Learning to analyze data from SNOTEL sites, ASO flights and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) which is then mapped and overlapped over time. In addition, they are also getting data from non-federal ground-based weather radars in Durango and Alamosa and plan to add the new radar at Big Mesa in Gunnison County once it is up and running. He explained the spatial and temporal resolution area for the various data resources provides SnowQ with a resolution area of 90 X 90 meters.

They both noted that through the combination and analysis of all this data, SnowQ is providing “astoundingly good results” with just over 90 percent accuracy compared to other snow data models. They reported that they currently have a funding proposal pending with NASA to use their technology in the Yuma Basin, California.

Director Don Sabrowski asked if you have to pay for use of the radar? They replied that in Alamosa, the county pays for it and then secures funding from other sources in the county to help offset their expenses. In Durango, the City bought the radar outright. There is also federally funded radar that you can access for free. They said the systems require maintenance which can run \$50,000 annually. Director Sabrowski asked if they have negotiated for the Gunnison radar yet? They replied that they have a promise letter of in-kind data support and that the Gunnison Basin Roundtable has acknowledged this as their match. They said that some private radar companies are funded on a subscription basis.

Director Sabrowski asked if SnowQ could replace ASO flights. They replied that they aren’t in business to replace anyone but can help provide additional data in between ASO flights and provide another resource for water managers who cannot afford ASO flights. “We want to collaborate with ASO, not replace anyone,” said Jean Vieux. Director Sabrowski said it sounds promising.

Director Rosemary Carroll asked if they were looking at the melt component, which they are not. She also asked how they calibrate between basins. Baxter Vieux explained their system. Director Carroll noted that they will have ASO data that they can use for the Gunnison valley to include in their research and wondered if they would be preparing a report of their findings. Jean Vieux said they had received permission from their project manager at Reclamation to share their findings, so they intend to do the research, provide the data to those interested and let folks tell them if the report is useful. Director Carroll noted that it would be useful.

Jean and Baxter Vieux thanked the Board for the invitation to present and said they look forward to the Upper Gunnison Gap Radar being up and running.

## **6. 2025 DRAFT BUDGET WORK SESSION**

President McPhail noted that in the Board packet was the 2025 Draft Budget Message and the current revised 2025 draft budget. General Manager Chavez reviewed the changes made since the last draft of the budget that was presented at the September Board meeting. As she reviewed each of the changes, she did report to the Board that she had heard back from the Colorado River District that they are still going to fund the ASO flights for 2025 but after that, the District will have to find a new funding source. She also said a line item had been added to hire a professional consultant to conduct strategic planning in 2025 with a place holder of \$30,000 while she conducts some additional research to get a better idea of what the District might expend.. She intends to follow-up with the Colorado River District to learn more about the consultant they are using.

Ms. Chavez said the District got word this morning from the USGS that in addition to the \$100,000 that the USGS had originally allocated toward the Ag Irrigation Return Flow study, they will be able to provide an additional \$100,000 towards the study thereby decreasing the District's liability from \$354,000 to \$254,000 in 2025.

There were no questions from the Board on the 2025 Draft Budget or Budget Message.

## **7. BASIN WATER SUPPLY UPDATE**

Senior Program Manager Beverly Richards provided a brief Power Point presentation to point out some of the changes to the water supply forecast that have occurred since she originally prepared her report. Overall, most of the changes were good news as there has been some precipitation in the District in the last couple of weeks and this has helped alleviate degrading drought conditions.

## **8. GENERAL MANAGER, STAFF AND COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Executive Committee Report** – President McPhail reported that the committee had met to conduct senior staff reviews. They also discussed the recommendations for compensation for all staff based on the “Total Rewards” philosophy that was adopted previously. She reported that the committee is in agreement with the compensation package suggested by the General Manager and said the committee was very comfortable with how the staff has grown. She said it is now the appropriate size to handle the increased workload. It was noted that if any of the Board has specific questions or concerns about personnel that these matters could be discussed in Executive Session at the next meeting. Board members should let the General Manager know if there are concerns that need to be addressed in Executive Session so this can be added to the agenda for November. President McPhail reported that the regular staff reviews are being finalized and the final recommendations for compensation will be reflected in the budget numbers next month and that the Executive Committee was in full support of the reviews and compensation package.

President McPhail reported that the committee also discussed the officer positions and were ready to vote on the officers for the remainder of 2024 and 2025 until the annual meeting. She noted the recommended slate of officers is as follows: Stacy McPhail, President; Rosemary Carroll, Vice President; Don Sabrowski, Secretary; and, John Perusek, Treasurer.

**Director Julie Nania moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of the recommended slate of officers as presented. The motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer John Perusek said he had nothing further to report than was included in the packet. President McPhail thanked him for working with staff through the budget process.

**General Manager's Report** – General Manager Sonja Chavez reviewed the items in her written report included in the packet. As part of the Watershed Management Planning process, Ms. Chavez asked Water Resources Project Manager Bailey Friedman to review the GEI Wetlands Assessment and make

recommendations to finalize the report for public distribution. Ms. Friedman gave a brief Power Point presentation and noted that there were some areas in need of clarification in how threats to wetlands were represented in GEI's assessment. The Board agreed with Ms. Friedman's concerns and with her recommendation to follow up with GEI for clarification. It was agreed that when it comes time to address specific areas of concern, it would be important to address the problem areas where the District can get the biggest bang for its buck and that the District stay true to what was said that in the beginning about its plans to use this assessment as presented to the county and other stakeholders.

General Manager Chavez noted that Ms. Friedman will also be assuming the WMP project management duties, including overseeing completion of the Phase 2 Final Report and coordination of education and outreach.

**WQCD Regulation 87 Update** – General Manager Chavez reported that the Dredge and Fill Stream Mitigation workshop was well attended with around 100 people in the room and a lot more online listening to the seminar. Ms. Chavez said the District can share links with updates about the program with Board members if they are interested. She said there were questions and a good deal of discussion about whether there should be different methodologies used for high elevation streams versus plains stream systems with a lot of consensus from stakeholders present at the meeting. The process will continue and it's expected that public input will be taken beginning in January 2025 with the rulemaking process to begin in August 2025.

**Wet Meadows Program** – General Manager Chavez reported that the program held their end-of-season meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. One outcome of this meeting is that there will be a need to hire two Summer Seasonal Employees and the District budget was revised to include \$32,000 to cover these seasonal employees at an hourly rate of \$21. Director Joellen Fonken asked if \$21 per hour is really a competitive rate for these positions? Ms. Chavez replied that she thought it was considering they get significant hands-on experience as they are working to complete their degrees and also a housing stipend.

**Director Rosemary Carroll moved and Director John Perusek seconded approval of hiring two 2025 seasonal employees for the Wet Meadows Program at a cost not to exceed a total of \$32,000 to be reimbursed through the 2025 BLM Cooperative Agreement. The motion carried.**

The Board also discussed the need for a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) to haul rock to Wet Meadows restoration sites along with a trailer to transport the UTV. The Wet Meadows program has been using a UTV and trailer on loan from either Colorado Parks and Wildlife or the National Parks Service, but this option will no longer be available. General Manager Chavez noted that if the District purchased the vehicle and trailer, it would only be driven by UGRWCD staff who will have received special training in its operation. There would also need to be insurance coverage for the vehicle and drivers. While the Board agreed with the need for such a UTV and trailer, there was a question about the maintenance costs and whether or not it might be better just to rent such a UTV and trailer when needed. Water Resources Technician Ari Yamaguchi will compile rental estimates to compare with the estimated cost of purchasing the equipment.



**Drought Contingency Planning (DCP)** – The stakeholder meetings were well attended, and the process is moving forward. Agricultural producers are the last group of stakeholders that need to meet. General Manager Chavez suggested that perhaps DCP could be the topic of the District’s presentation at the annual Stockgrowers meeting in December 2024.

**Education and Outreach** – The District sponsored the Gunnison Rotary Club’s fishing tournament at the end of September and photos of the winners were shared with the Board. Administrative Assistant Sue Uerling also reported that a new Mini-Grant application from the Crested Butte Nordic Council had been submitted. She encouraged the Education and Outreach Committee members who had not cast a vote on the application to please respond as soon as possible.

**Scientific Endeavors** – Director Rosemary Carroll said that she did not have much to report but that the presentation by the Applied Research Team would be of interest to the scientific community. She noted that currently everyone is using their own forecasting data systems which makes it hard to compare results across the board. For the scientific community, she said they are going to want to see data for much longer terms, like for decades. She said the Applied Research Team’s reports could be useful in the future.

## **9. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

General Manager Sonja Chavez announced that the **Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention** will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Aurora January 29-31<sup>st</sup>. Because this conference tends to sell-out of hotel rooms at the Hyatt, she recommended that Board members should indicate their interest in going now so that hotel reservations can be made. If it turns out that someone is unable to attend, the District can cancel the hotel rooms up until the week before the conference. Directors Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania, John Perusek and Don Sabrowski are interested in attending at this time. If any other Board members are interested, they should contact the District as soon as possible.

General Manager Chavez noted that the District will hold its **Board and Staff Holiday Party** immediately following the November meeting on November 25, 2024. Board members, staff and their significant others are invited. Please RSVP for the party as soon as possible.

Director Julie Nania reported that the **Headwaters Conference** held at Western Colorado University October 25 and 26<sup>th</sup> was well attended with 65 attendees at the workshop, 90 attendees for the conference and an additional 30 persons online. She said that Robert Sakata did a great job facilitating the workshop and she thanked Directors Stacy McPhail and Andy Spann for their help. President McPhail commended Julie for a very successful conference.

## **10. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No citizen comments were brought forth. Tom Rozman was thanked for his attendance.

## **11. FUTURE MEETINGS**

A list of meetings was included in the Board packet.

**12. SUMMARY OF MEETING ACTION ITEMS**

- Staff will further research total costs for the purchase or rental of a Utility Vehicle and trailer for the Wet Meadows program.
- Staff will seek input from agricultural producers on the Drought Contingency Planning process. Location and event date to be determined.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

President Stacy McPhail adjourned the October 28, 2024 Board meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Don Sabrowski, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Stacy McPhail, President

DRAFT

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Monthly Budget Summary 2024

	Oct 24	YTD 2024	2024 Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Asp Water Sales	302.28	24,550.03	21,920.00	112.0%
Rent Income	985.00	12,185.00	30,000.00	40.62%
Cloud Seeding Income	0.00	120,600.00	120,600.00	100.0%
Interest Income	34.14	50,629.80	60,000.00	84.38%
Property Tax Income	23,955.59	2,286,010.81	2,190,598.00	104.36%
Reimbursed Exp Income	0.00	23,375.08	38,696.00	60.41%
Watershed Mgmt Income	19,055.85	184,631.53	231,914.00	79.61%
Wet Meadows Income	11,185.13	204,631.68	320,470.00	63.85%
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	110.00	5,570.32		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>55,627.99</b>	<b>2,957,247.81</b>	<b>3,271,781.00</b>	<b>90.39%</b>
Cost of Goods Sold				
CWCB PEPO 2024-2668	1,285.80	13,719.82		
CWCB WMP 2023-3317	0.00	1,265.67		
CWCB GBRT-PEPO 2023-2489	0.00	-7,328.80		
CWCB/ NCAR #2023-2377 \$14,998	0.00	4,233.29		
CWCB PO 2023-3158	0.00	-8,731.03		
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>1,285.80</b>	<b>3,158.95</b>		
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>54,342.19</b>	<b>2,954,088.86</b>	<b>3,271,781.00</b>	<b>90.29%</b>
Expense				
Op X				
Admin.Travel & Exp.	2,847.30	21,960.80	35,000.00	62.75%
Audit Expense	0.00	6,500.00	10,000.00	65.0%
Accounting & Professional Fees	3,010.00	34,483.08	51,000.00	67.61%
BOD Expenses	100.00	6,548.40	15,000.00	43.66%
BOD Mileage	109.88	2,816.01	5,000.00	56.32%
BOD Mtg Fees	800.00	10,200.00	13,360.00	76.35%
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	443.78	5,207.57	5,400.00	96.44%
Computer Exp	842.95	15,661.25	23,300.00	67.22%
Copier Expenses	329.47	3,325.72	5,500.00	60.47%
County Treasurers' Fees	401.60	66,244.39	49,410.00	134.07%
Spencer Bldg Reserve Contrib	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	100.0%
Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	1,390.76	10,181.39	16,475.00	61.8%
Legal Publication	781.55	3,201.66	10,000.00	32.02%
Manager's Discretionary	2,731.55	7,265.16	25,000.00	29.06%
Meeting Expenses	68.97	3,198.64	5,000.00	63.97%
Office Cleaning	697.50	6,570.00	6,500.00	101.08%
Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	847.84	11,105.61	12,000.00	92.55%
Payroll Exp	85,801.18	676,067.07	799,151.00	84.6%
Postage	9.35	986.80	1,000.00	98.68%
Telephone	984.64	7,177.18	7,110.00	100.95%
Utilities	503.46	8,107.41	9,800.00	82.73%
Vehicle Expense	216.06	2,974.86	7,000.00	42.5%
Bank Service Charges	0.00	-35.00		

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Monthly Budget Summary 2024

	Oct 24	YTD 2024	2024 Budget	% of Budget
<b>Total 1 Op X</b>	102,917.84	940,480.07	1,147,006.00	81.99%
<b>2 Non-Op X</b>				
Asp Subordination Report	0.00	0.00	5,500.00	0.0%
Aspinall Contract Costs	606.17	18,788.08	21,920.00	85.71%
City of Gunnison Cleanup	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
Consulting/Engineering	3,140.48	16,488.30	46,000.00	35.84%
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	535.44	3,712.82	30,000.00	12.38%
Grant Program	61,500.00	153,645.33	430,190.00	35.72%
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	5,663.33	41,873.35	61,485.00	68.1%
Regional Water Supply Imp. Exp.	67.44	352,094.22	450,500.00	78.16%
Taylor Park Projects Exp	0.00	7,436.00	7,436.00	100.0%
Watershed Mgmt X	19,053.33	299,134.16	379,914.00	78.74%
Wet Meadow X	161.30	97,550.90	330,470.00	29.52%
WQ Monitoring	0.00	89,631.60	169,930.00	52.75%
<b>Total 2 Non-Op X</b>	90,727.49	1,132,576.96	1,986,309.00	57.02%
Capital Outlay Expense	6,449.58	178,905.16	207,000.00	86.43%
Contingency	0.00	2,429.73	24,000.00	10.12%
<b>Total Expense</b>	200,094.91	2,254,391.92	3,364,315.00	67.01%
Net Ordinary Income	-145,752.72	699,696.94	-92,534.00	-756.15%
Dividend Income	0.00	250.00		
Net Other Income	0.00	250.00		
<b>Net Income</b>	-145,752.72	699,946.94	-92,534.00	-756.42%

UGRWCD						
Account Name	Instrument Type	Balance 10/31/2024	Cost Basis	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Date Callable
LPL Bond 17 (FHLB) CUSIP Treasury Note 91282CDH1	BOND	204,679.58	204,335.35	0.750%	11/15/2024	
LPL 28 Freddie Mac CUSIP 3134GXQP2	BOND	198,571.40	200,000.00	3.050%	4/28/2025	7/28/2022
LPL Bond 20 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130AJLA5	BOND	538,709.05	550,000.00	0.770%	5/19/2025	
LPL Bond 21 (Fed Farm) CUSIP 3133EL3P7	BOND	334,722.10	345,000.00	0.550%	8/12/2025	12/7/2023
LPL Bond 29 (Fedl Farm Credit Bank) CUSIP 3133ERJP7	BOND	280,834.12	280,000.00	5.110%	7/1/2026	7/1/2025
LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	BOND	238,459.00	250,000.00	0.920%	3/17/2026	9/17/2021
LPL Bond 24 CUSIP Fedl Home Loan Bank 3130AMDY5	BOND	475,054.00	500,000.00	1.050%	5/20/2026	5/20/2022
LPL 26 (Fed. Home Loan Banks) CUSIP 3130APBE4	BOND	150,203.84	160,000.00	1.070%	9/30/2026	9/30/2022
LPL Note (Fed. Home Loan) 3134H1LP6	BOND	350,255.85	350,000.00	5.250%	12/11/2028	12/11/2024
<b>LPL BOND SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 2,771,488.94</b>	<b>\$ 2,839,335.35</b>	<b>2.058%</b>		
Account Name: LPL Certificates of Deposit						
LPL 22 Merrick Bank CD thru LPL CUSIP 59013KLR5	CD	247,316.76	249,000.00	0.350%	12/30/2024	
LPL 30 Synchrony Bank CD CUSIP 87165EXB8	CD	243,562.83	245,000.00	3.420%	7/29/2025	
<b>LPL CD SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 490,879.59</b>	<b>\$ 494,000.00</b>	<b>1.885%</b>		
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	5,103.38	-	1.150%	N/A	
<b>LPL MM SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 5,103.38</b>				

Account Name	INSTRUMENT TYPE	Balance 10/31/2024	Cost Basis	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Notes
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	80,710.47		0.50%		
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8756	CHKG	47,077.23				
				<b>Average Mo. Yield</b>		
COLOTRUST PLUS+ 8001	COLO.	1,551,954.59		5.02%	N/A	
COLOTRUST UGRWCD EHOP 8003	COLO.	105,310.62		5.02%	N/A	
COLOTRUST PRIME 4001	COLO.	6,273.48		4.74%	N/A	
10200 Petty Cash	PETTY	114.91		N/A	N/A	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS BANK &amp; COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 2,168,030.57</b>				
<b>TOTAL UGRWCD</b>		<b>\$ 5,435,502.48</b>				

UGRWAE						
Account Name	INSTRUMENT TYPE	Balance 10/31/2024	Cost Basis	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Date Callable
LPL Bond CUSIP 3134H1RM7 Fedl Home Loan Mtg Corp	Bond	300,023.40	300,000.00	5.15%	2/7/2029	8/7/2024
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8764	CHKG	132,369.12				
COLOTRUST PLUS+ 8002	COLO.	296,572.12		5.29%	N/A	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS BANK &amp; COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 728,964.64</b>				
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	7,732.57	-	0.450%	N/A	
<b>LPL MM SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 7,732.57</b>				
<b>TOTAL UGRWAE</b>		<b>\$ 736,697.21</b>				

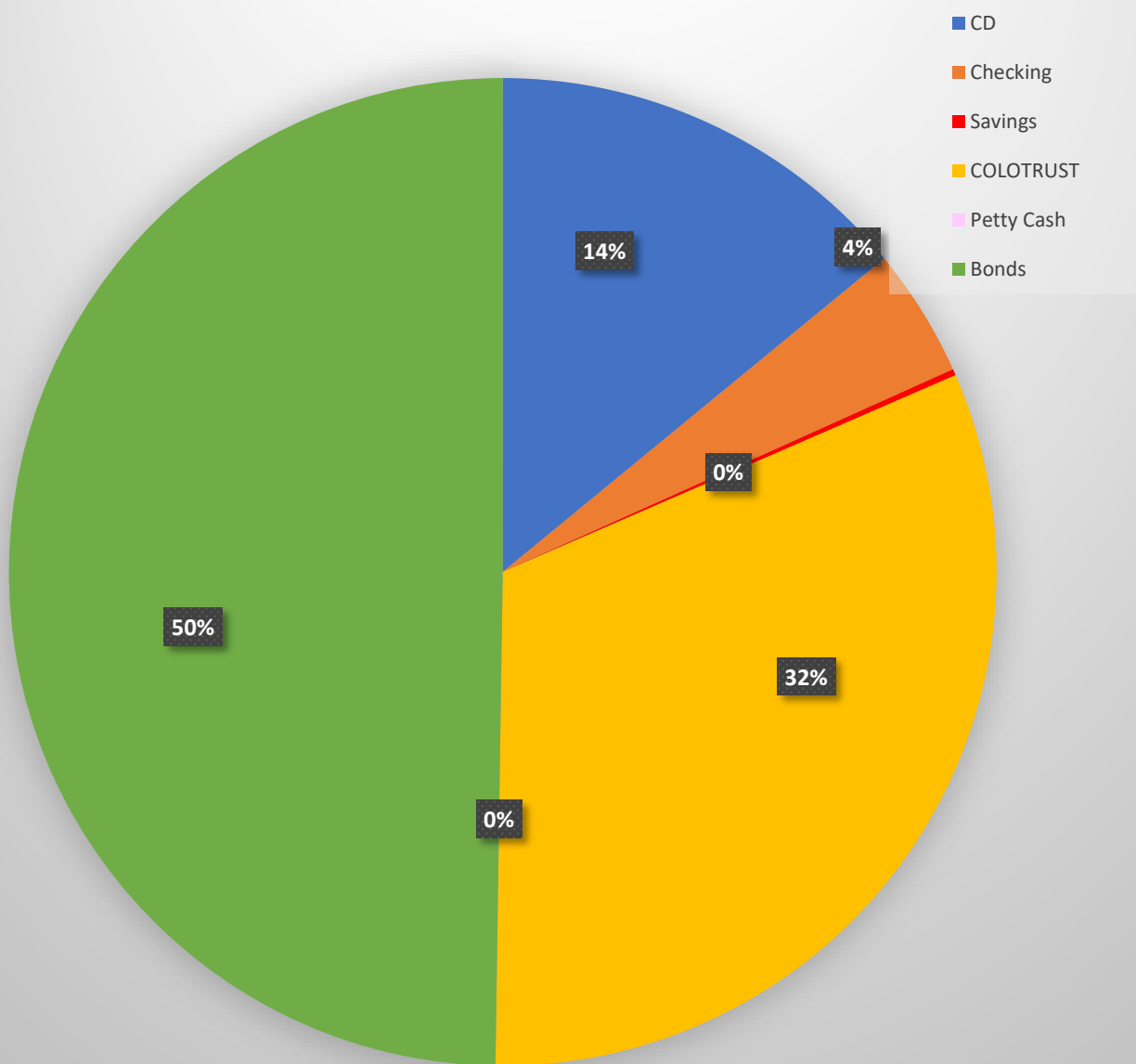
**TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE \$ 6,172,199.69**

Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE by Bank			Total UGRWCD & UGRWAE by Investment Type		
LPL Financial	\$ 3,575,227.88	58%	CD	14%	867,468.86
Community Banks of Colo.	157,797.52	3%	Checking	4%	260,156.82
Gunnison Bank & Trust	478,948.57	8%	Savings	0%	12,835.95
COLOTRUST	1,960,110.81	32%	COLOTRUST	32%	1,960,110.81
Petty Cash	114.91	0%	Petty Cash	0%	114.91
<b>TOTAL ALL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 6,172,199.69</b>	<b>100%</b>	Bonds	50%	\$ 3,071,512.34
			<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 6,172,199.69</b>

### UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	14%	\$	867,468.86
Checking	4%	\$	260,156.82
Savings	0%	\$	12,835.95
COLOTRUST	32%	\$	1,960,110.81
Petty Cash	0%	\$	114.91
Bonds	50%	\$	3,071,512.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,172,199.69</b>

### UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



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Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
10/31/2024	Abra Karbin Ceramics	Manager's Discretionary	221.00
	Total Abra Karbin Ceramics		221.00
10/31/2024	Alan Wartes Media LLC	91739 · Legal Publication	100.86
	Total Alan Wartes Media LLC		100.86
10/17/2024	Alana Nichols	USBR Drought Contingency	110.45
	Total Alana Nichols		110.45
10/31/2024	Anthem	74166 · Medical Insurance	350.09
	Total Anthem		350.09
10/31/2024	Applegate Group, Inc.	Consulting/Engineering	2,885.48
	Total Applegate Group, Inc.		2,885.48
10/31/2024	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit C	66.68
10/31/2024	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	70.93
10/31/2024	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	4.36
	Total Atmos Energy		141.97
10/31/2024	Beverly Richards	74166 · Medical Insurance	174.70

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 Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Total Beverly Richards			174.70
Brooke Zanatell BOD			
10/31/2024	Brooke Zanatell BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Brooke Zanatell BOD			100.00
Business Solutions Leasing			
10/31/2024	Business Solutions Leasing	Copier Expenses	242.89
Total Business Solutions Leasing			242.89
CEBT			
10/31/2024	CEBT	74166 · Medical Insurance	4,581.27
Total CEBT			4,581.27
Chase - United Credit Card			
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Tacom	108.71
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Highl	107.35
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	91735 · Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	314.38
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Computer Software	231.99
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	91747 · Meeting Expenses	68.97
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	91730 · Admin.Travel & Exp.	2,847.30
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Aspinall Contract Costs	70.08
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Manager's Discretionary	546.32
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Office Equipment	1,949.99
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Drought Contingency Cont	368.77
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	91737 · Postage	9.35
10/31/2024	Chase - United Credit Card	Wet Meadow X	161.30
Total Chase - United Credit Card			6,784.51
City of Gunnison			



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Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
10/31/2024	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	25.73
10/31/2024	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	41.79
10/31/2024	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	111.02
10/31/2024	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	205.96
10/31/2024	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit C	110.79
Total City of Gunnison			495.29
Crested Butte News			
10/31/2024	Crested Butte News	91739 · Legal Publication	119.09
Total Crested Butte News			119.09
Don Sabrowski BOD			
10/31/2024	Don Sabrowski BOD	91745 · BOD Expenses	100.00
10/31/2024	Don Sabrowski BOD	91751 · BOD Mileage	21.44
Total Don Sabrowski BOD			121.44
Dos Rios Golf Club			
10/31/2024	Dos Rios Golf Club	Grant Program	50,000.00
Total Dos Rios Golf Club			50,000.00
Fullmer's Ace Hardware			
10/31/2024	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	91735 · Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	81.26
Total Fullmer's Ace Hardware			81.26
GL Computer Service, Inc.			
10/31/2024	GL Computer Service, Inc.	Computer Repair/IT Support	400.00
Total GL Computer Service, Inc.			400.00
Gobins's, Inc.			

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Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
10/31/2024	Gobins's, Inc.	Copier Expenses	86.58
	Total Gobins's, Inc.		86.58
	Golden Eagle Trash Service		
10/31/2024	Golden Eagle Trash Service	84550 · CAM	93.78
	Total Golden Eagle Trash Service		93.78
	Great Escape Landscape		
10/31/2024	Great Escape Landscape	84550 · CAM	350.00
	Total Great Escape Landscape		350.00
	Gunnison Bank and Trust		
10/07/2024	Gunnison Bank and Trust	80517 · Accounting & Professional Fees	5.00
10/18/2024	Gunnison Bank and Trust	80517 · Accounting & Professional Fees	5.00
	Total Gunnison Bank and Trust		10.00
	Gunnison Elementary School		
10/31/2024	Gunnison Elementary School	Local School Involvement	750.00
	Total Gunnison Elementary School		750.00
	Hartman Brothers, Inc.		
10/31/2024	Hartman Brothers, Inc.	Cloud Seeding	28.99
	Total Hartman Brothers, Inc.		28.99
	Humana		
10/01/2024	Humana	74166 · Medical Insurance	102.00
	Total Humana		102.00

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 Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Joellen Fonken BOD			
10/31/2024	Joellen Fonken BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
10/31/2024	Joellen Fonken BOD	91751 · BOD Mileage	6.70
Total Joellen Fonken BOD			106.70
John McClow			
10/31/2024	John McClow	74166 · Medical Insurance	174.70
Total John McClow			174.70
John Perusek BOD			
10/31/2024	John Perusek BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total John Perusek BOD			100.00
Joshua Ackerman			
10/22/2024	Joshua Ackerman	Grant Program	7,500.00
10/22/2024	Joshua Ackerman	CFP Multi Project	6,500.00
Total Joshua Ackerman			14,000.00
Julie Nania BOD			
10/31/2024	Julie Nania BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
10/31/2024	Julie Nania BOD	91751 · BOD Mileage	40.20
Total Julie Nania BOD			140.20
KEJJ Radio			
10/17/2024	KEJJ Radio	Public Ed./Advertising	150.00
10/17/2024	KEJJ Radio	Drought Contingency Cont	125.00
10/31/2024	KEJJ Radio	Public Ed./Advertising	275.00
Total KEJJ Radio			550.00

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Kowal Construction			
10/17/2024	Kowal Construction	Spencer Unit A Reno	992.83
Total Kowal Construction			992.83
KVLE FM			
10/17/2024	KVLE FM	Public Ed./Advertising	83.33
10/17/2024	KVLE FM	Drought Contingency Cont	41.67
10/31/2024	KVLE FM	Public Ed./Advertising	125.00
Total KVLE FM			250.00
LexisNexis			
10/31/2024	LexisNexis	Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	686.38
10/31/2024	LexisNexis	Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	686.38
Total LexisNexis			1,372.76
Lightspeed Voice			
10/02/2024	Lightspeed Voice	91275 · Telephone	1.66
10/31/2024	Lightspeed Voice	91275 · Telephone	1.66
Total Lightspeed Voice			3.32
Magan Friedman			
10/03/2024	Magan Friedman	Manager's Discretionary	1,918.98
Total Magan Friedman			1,918.98
Melinda McCawmedia			
10/31/2024	Melinda McCawmedia	73102 · CWCB PEPO 2024-2668	79.40
10/31/2024	Melinda McCawmedia	73102 · CWCB PEPO 2024-2668	79.40
Total Melinda McCawmedia			158.80

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
10/31/2024	Mike Rogers BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Mike Rogers BOD			100.00
10/31/2024	National Business Furniture	Office Equipment	3,506.76
Total National Business Furniture			3,506.76
10/31/2024	New Morning Improvement, LLC	Office Cleaning	225.00
10/31/2024	New Morning Improvement, LLC	Office Cleaning	472.50
Total New Morning Improvement, LLC			697.50
10/31/2024	Pat's Screen Printing	Manager's Discretionary	45.25
Total Pat's Screen Printing			45.25
10/03/2024	QuickBooks	Computer Software	84.00
Total QuickBooks			84.00
10/31/2024	Rebie Hazard-BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Rebie Hazard-BOD			100.00
10/31/2024	RigNet Inc	Cloud Seeding	38.45

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 Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Total RigNet Inc			38.45
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory			
10/31/2024	Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory	Local School Involvement	4,200.00
Total Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory			4,200.00
Rosemary Carroll - BOD			
10/31/2024	Rosemary Carroll - BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
10/31/2024	Rosemary Carroll - BOD	91751 · BOD Mileage	40.20
Total Rosemary Carroll - BOD			140.20
Silver World Publishing			
10/31/2024	Silver World Publishing	91739 · Legal Publication	561.60
10/31/2024	Silver World Publishing	Public Outreach - Misc Expenses	80.00
Total Silver World Publishing			641.60
Stacy McPhail BOD			
10/31/2024	Stacy McPhail BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
10/31/2024	Stacy McPhail BOD	91751 · BOD Mileage	1.34
Total Stacy McPhail BOD			101.34
Strategic by Nature			
10/31/2024	Strategic by Nature	USBR Drought Contingency	9,503.58
Total Strategic by Nature			9,503.58
Sue Uerling			
10/17/2024	Sue Uerling	91735 · Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	150.00
Total Sue Uerling			150.00

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Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Sunshine Creatives 10/31/2024	Sunshine Creatives	73102 · CWCB PEPO 2024-2668	<u>1,127.00</u>
Total Sunshine Creatives			1,127.00
The Paper Clip 10/31/2024	The Paper Clip	91735 · Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	<u>302.20</u>
Total The Paper Clip			302.20
The Saguache Crescent 10/31/2024	The Saguache Crescent	Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	<u>18.00</u>
Total The Saguache Crescent			18.00
Thomas N Stoeber, CPA 10/31/2024	Thomas N Stoeber, CPA	80517 · Accounting & Professional Fees	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Thomas N Stoeber, CPA			3,000.00
Trout Unlimited - Vendor 10/22/2024	Trout Unlimited - Vendor	Grant Program	<u>4,000.00</u>
Total Trout Unlimited - Vendor			4,000.00
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation 10/31/2024	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Aspinall Contract Costs	<u>536.09</u>
Total U.S. Bureau of Reclamation			536.09
UnitedHealthcare 10/07/2024	UnitedHealthcare	74166 · Medical Insurance	<u>123.90</u>
Total UnitedHealthcare			123.90

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Accrual Basis

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

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Verizon Wireless 10/31/2024	Verizon Wireless	91275 · Telephone	<u>981.32</u>
Total Verizon Wireless			981.32
Visionary Broadband 10/30/2024	Visionary Broadband	Internet	<u>126.96</u>
Total Visionary Broadband			126.96
Wilson Water Group 10/31/2024	Wilson Water Group	USBR Drought Contingency	2,939.30
10/31/2024	Wilson Water Group	Consulting/Engineering	<u>255.00</u>
Total Wilson Water Group			<u>3,194.30</u>
TOTAL			<u><u>120,818.39</u></u>



# **AGENDA ITEM 4**

**General Counsel Update**

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton  
Commissioner  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

November 18, 2024

*VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL*  
[mtouton@usbr.gov](mailto:mtouton@usbr.gov)

Dear Commissioner Touton,

We are writing to reiterate the undersigned Colorado water users' support for the State of Colorado's position that the post-2026 Guidelines, and underlying NEPA analysis, must adhere to the fundamental principles outlined below.

**1. The Post-2026 guidelines must comply with the Law of the River, including the requirements of § 602(a) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act (P.L. 90-537). Simply put, the Secretary has a statutory obligation to ensure that storage levels in Lake Powell prevent impairment of consumptive uses in the Upper Basin pursuant to the Compact. This obligation cannot be diminished or modified by guidelines.**

Section 602(a) Storage is intended to allow the Upper Division States to continue to meet their obligations under the 1922 Colorado River Compact ("Compact") without impairing their ability to consumptively use the waters of the Colorado River System apportioned to them in perpetuity by the Compact. As outlined in the Upper Division States' letter to you dated June 11, 2024, the post-2026 guidelines must provide that the Secretary will annually determine the quantity of water necessary to comply with the requirements of § 602(a) as well as the Long-Range Operating Criteria and apply that determination to calculating release from Lake Powell. The current algorithm used to make that determination (in particular, the most critical period of record) must be updated to reflect the best available science.

**2. A required minimum release of 8.23 maf from Lake Powell is unacceptable.**

There is no authority to support the assertion that releases from Lake Powell are fixed at or above 8.23 million acre-feet (maf) per year. The Long-Range Operating Criteria identify a minimum release of 8.23 maf as an objective, not a requirement, to balance storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead while assuring that Upper Basin consumptive uses are not impaired. As Reclamation's modeling demonstrates, a consistent release of 8.23 maf under the most likely future hydrology would reduce Lake Powell to dead pool in a few years. Requiring a minimum release of 8.23 maf would condemn the post-2026 guidelines to failure.

The assertion that the Upper Division States are obligated to deliver 8.23 million acre-feet annually to the Lower Basin contorts the terms of the Colorado River Compact. For example, the Compact directs that the Upper Division States "will not *cause* the flow at Lee Ferry to be depleted below an aggregate of 75,000,000 acre-feet over any ten-year period". This is not a

delivery obligation and an analysis of compliance with this non-depletion obligation requires, among other things, a finding as to causation. Without question, climate change has, and will continue to have, a considerable impact on Colorado River flows. This aridification, and the fact that the Upper Division States annually consume three to four million acre-feet less than their Compact apportionment are among the factors that must be considered in any potential causation analysis. Moreover, the assertion of an annual minimum 8.23 maf at Lee Ferry feeds directly into the dispute as to whether there has been a declared “Mexican Treaty deficiency”, which has never occurred.

**3. The Secretary is the water master of the Lower Basin. The Secretary is not the water master of the Upper Basin.**

Section 5 of the Boulder Canyon Project Act grants the Secretary of the Interior the authority to act as the “water master” of the Lower Basin. As water master, the Secretary regulates the delivery of water stored in Lake Mead to water users in the Lower Basin and has full power to reduce these deliveries in times of shortage. The Secretary has no such authority in the Upper Basin. Colorado has the sole authority to regulate the allocation and use of water in Colorado, subject only to its obligations to comply with duly adopted orders of the Upper Colorado River Commission in accordance with the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact of 1948. Any attempt to expand federal authority, for example (without limitation) by releasing water stored in Colorado reservoirs to bolster Lower Basin supplies, will be strongly opposed politically and legally.

Reliance on the recent Supreme Court decision in *Texas v. New Mexico* to assert expanded federal authority in the Upper Basin is misplaced. The principal holding in that case merely allows the United States to pursue a claim that New Mexico is violating the terms of the Rio Grande Compact. The Upper Division States are in full compliance with the Colorado River Compact, and in any event, the Court clearly stated that “different compacts divide state and federal authority differently.”

**4. The Guidelines cannot rely on “magic water” from the Upper Basin as a surrogate for additional contributions from the Upper Basin.**

Although Colorado water users, in conjunction with the State of Colorado, will continue to explore parallel activities that encourage voluntary conservation, it is legally impossible for Colorado to agree to share in shortages as suggested by the Lower Division States. Attempting to impose mandatory reductions in water use – beyond the prior appropriation system - would violate the Colorado Constitution. Thus, the Colorado State Engineer has no authority to do so. The other Upper Division States are similarly constrained from requiring mandatory reductions. Beyond that, we are effectively taking significant shortages every year when consumptive use is measured against the Upper Basin’s Compact apportionment.

Thank you for your continued work toward developing the post-2026 guidelines. We continue to hope for a negotiated seven-state agreement. However, if there is no agreement, we will support the State of Colorado in taking the actions required to protect Colorado's interests as outlined in the abovementioned principles.

Sincerely,

Andrew A. Mueller, General Manager  
Colorado River Water  
Conservation District

Ken Curtis, General Manager  
Dolores Water Conservancy District

Tina Bergonzini, General Manager  
Grand Valley Water Users Association

David Robbins  
Hill and Robbins

Brad Wind, General Manager  
Northern Colorado  
Water Conservancy District

Jackie Fisher, General Manager  
Orchard Mesa Irrigation District

Leann Noga, Executive Director  
Southeastern Colorado  
Water Conservancy District

Steve Wolff, General Manager  
Southwestern Water Conservation  
District

Steve Pope, Manager  
Uncompahgre Valley  
Water Users Association

Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
Upper Gunnison River Water  
Conservancy District

cc: Governor Jared Polis  
Attorney General Phil Weiser  
Senator Michael Bennet  
Senator John Hickenlooper  
Dan Gibbs, Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Commissioner Rebecca Mitchel  
Commissioner Gene Shawcroft  
Commissioner Estevan Lopez  
Commissioner Brandon Gebhart  
David Palumbo  
Carly Jerla  
Rod Smith



# WATER PLAN GRANT PROGRAM

FY 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by the Colorado Water Conservation Board.



**COLORADO**  
Colorado Water  
Conservation Board  
Department of Natural Resources

Weismiller,  
Kathryn

# An Introduction to Water Plan Grants

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The Colorado Water Plan provides a comprehensive framework to guide collaborative actions throughout the state. Critical to this goal—is the Water Plan Grant Program, managed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), which provides millions of dollars of funding for projects in five key categories:

- Water Storage & Supply
- Conservation & Land Use
- Engagement & Innovation
- Agricultural Projects
- Watershed Health & Recreation

Water Plan Grants also support the four key action areas of the 2023 Colorado Water Plan: Vibrant Communities, Robust Agriculture, Thriving Watersheds, and Resilient Planning—as well as support the Water Plan’s critical Partner Actions. Funded projects are wide-ranging and impactful to the state, focusing on enhancing water infrastructure, restoring ecosystems, supporting education and community collaboration, boosting water conservation and efficiency, guiding resilient land use planning, and much more.



CWCB staff work to distribute Water Plan Grant funds to eligible entities across the state. This team includes four regional grant managers who live and work in the communities they serve. Every river basin in Colorado carries its own unique fingerprint of hydrology and geology, as well as sociocultural differences. Because of these differences, Water Plan Grant managers are vitally important liaisons between local communities and the CWCB—making significant contributions to local water management entities far beyond reviewing applications, making funding recommendations, and ongoing oversight of projects. The Water Plan Grant team also includes a technical lead staff member for each of the grant funding categories, providing critical expertise to the grant process and a technical review that enhances the work of the regional managers.

Colorado will continue to face increased challenges from climate change, population growth and changing water demands. The Colorado Water Plan and the Water Plan Grant Program will continue to meet and mitigate our state’s most critical water challenges—allowing water partners, agencies, and Coloradans to work together to ensure our Colorado communities, agriculture and environments will continue to thrive for generations to come.

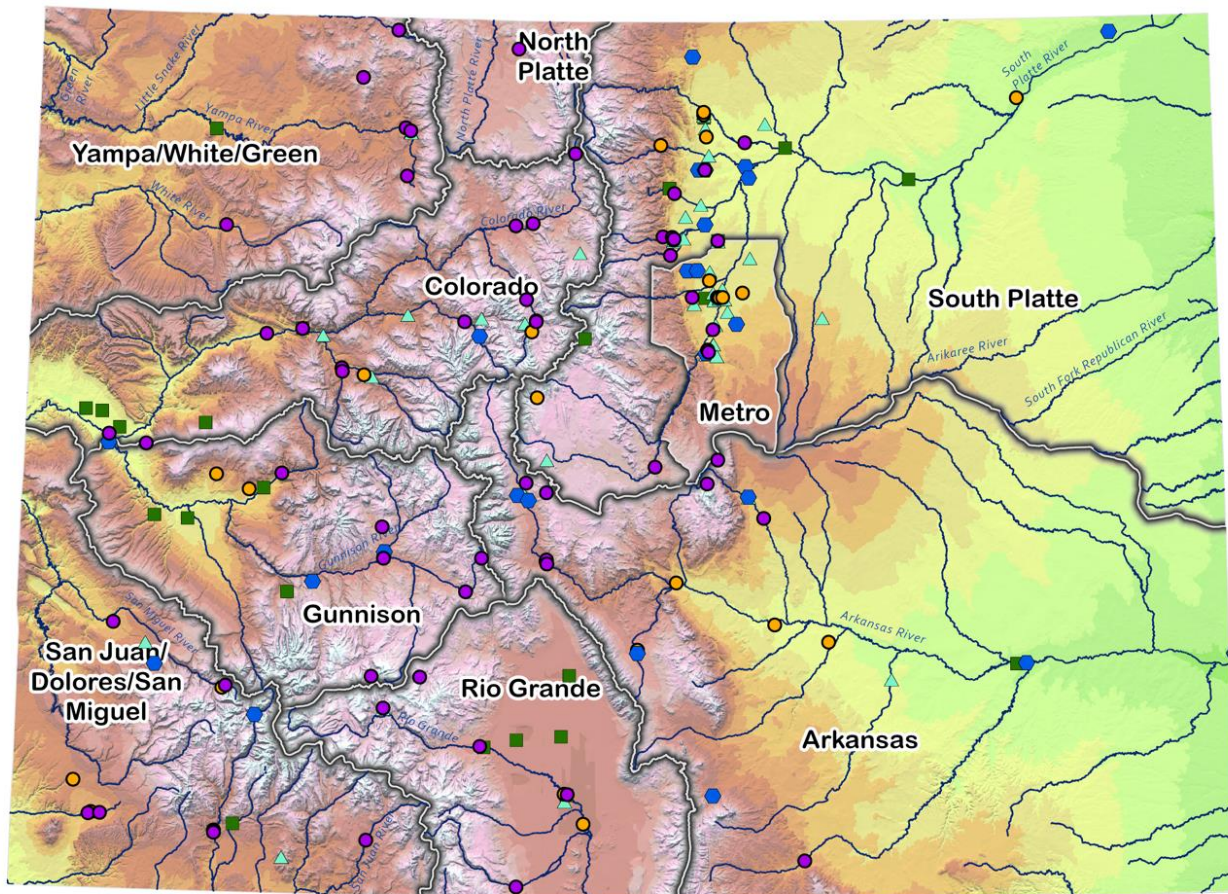
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# Funding Sources and Background

Prior to the receipt of revenue associated with the passage of H.B. 19-1327 (Authorize and Tax Sports Betting Refer Under Taxpayers' Bill of Rights) and the approval of Proposition DD by voters in November 2019, the WPG Program was supported by a series of one-time installments of funding from a number of sources, including the General Fund, the CWCB Construction Fund, and state stimulus funding. Through FY 2024, sports betting revenues are distributed to agencies in arrears of collection, with over 90 percent of revenue distributed to the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund in September of the fiscal year following collection by the Department of Revenue. These funds are appropriated in the legislative session following distribution in the CWCB's annual projects bill. Grants are then awarded twice in the fiscal year following appropriation, which results in a two-year lag from revenue collection to grant award.

Since the 2023-24 fiscal year, sports betting tax revenue represents a stable and permanent source of funding for the WPG Program via the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund. As of the end of FY 2023-24, the WPG Program has issued 470 grants and funded over \$95 million in local projects since it began in FY 2017-18.

## Water Plan Grant Project Locations, FY2024



**COLORADO**  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Department of Natural Resources



IBCC Basins

Project Type

Agricultural Projects

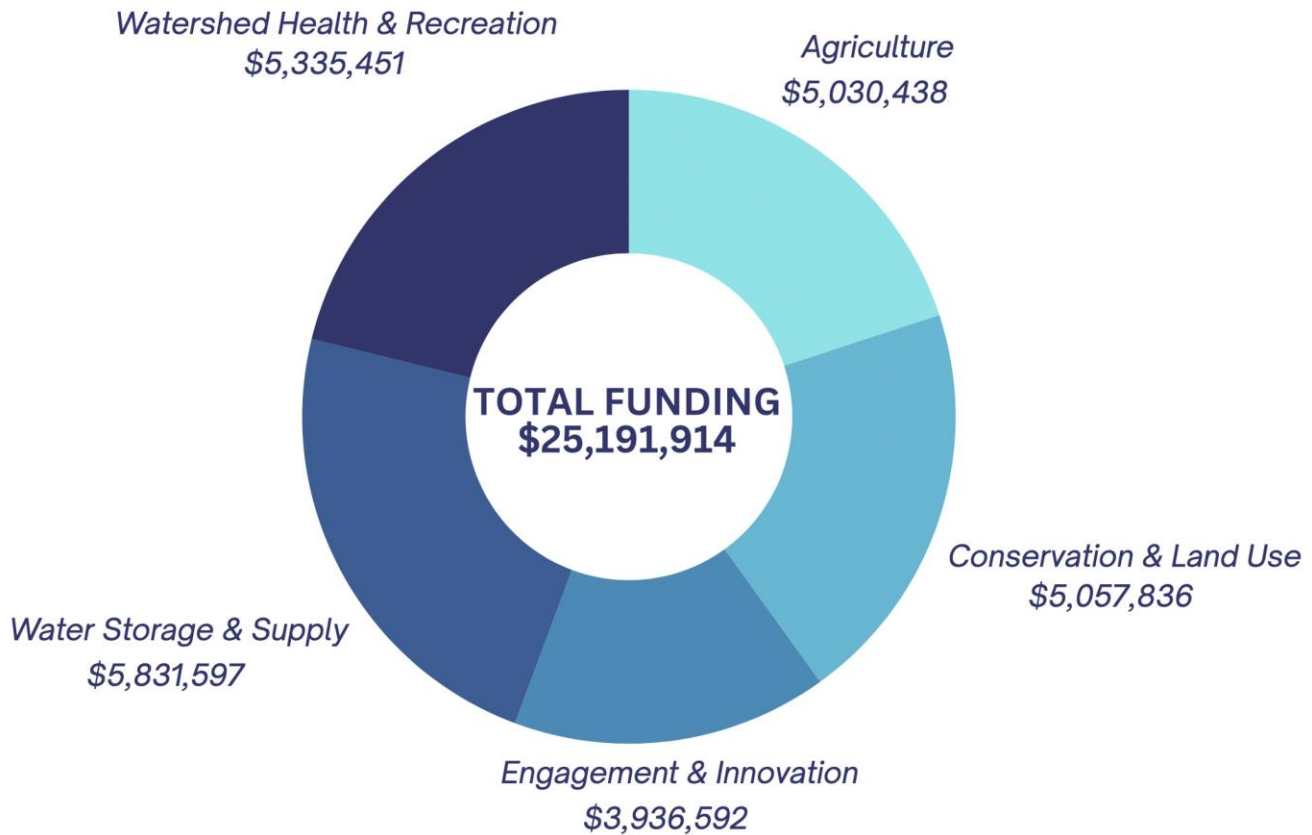
Conservation & Land Use Planning

Engagement & Innovation Activities

Water Storage & Supply

Watershed Health & Recreation

## WATER PLAN GRANT FUNDING FY24



(above numbers rounded to the nearest dollar)

## Water Plan Grants By the Numbers



**84**

The total number of Water Plan Grant-funded projects for FY24



**602**

The number of acres of preserved habitat from FY24 Water Plan Grant projects



**918,668**

The number of linear feet of stream to be restored from FY24 approved projects (includes design, implementation, planning)



**9**

Water Plan Grants were awarded for projects in all 9 of Colorado's water basins for FY24



**30**

Water Plan Grants were awarded for projects in 30 counties across the state for FY24



# Projects at a Glance

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## Agriculture

### **Las Animas Water-Sharing Program**

Grantee: Western Water Partnerships

Basin: Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$245,738

Description: Western Water Partnerships will lead the development of a water-sharing program that will provide farmers on the Las Animas Consolidated and Consolidated Extension Canals with a permanent water supply through a partnership with a municipality. This project will bring together diverse stakeholders, including Xcel (the current water right holder), farmers, municipal, industrial, environmental and recreational groups to engage in the co-creation of a water sharing program that will provide certainty for agricultural water users while helping to mitigate other water supply challenges in the region.

### **San Luis Valley Rye Resurgence Project**

Grantee: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Basin: Rio Grande

Grant Amount: \$405,000

Description: San Luis Valley producers are growing rye, a crop that uses less water than crops traditionally grown in the water-stressed basin. Their water plan grant supports the development of a supply chain and marketing scheme to bring the rye to Colorado's distilling and baking communities. This effort helps farmers reduce groundwater use, prevent erosion, and improve soil health, while creating new economic opportunities, making it an important step toward sustainable agriculture in the region.

### **Development of a Market for a Drought Tolerant Fresh Vegetable**

Grantee: Colorado State University

Basin: Colorado/Gunnison

Grant Amount: \$69,673

Description: This project funds a study to determine consumptive water use savings and consumer taste preference for varieties of Southern Sweet Pea. Southern Sweet Pea will be grown at the Western Colorado Research Center's Grand Valley location and taste preference studies will be conducted at CSU SPUR campus and two western Colorado farmers markets. The consumptive water use results will be compared to other common crops in the area including sweet corn, alfalfa, wheat, orchard grass, and field corn. The study will be used to inform the potential use of cowpea as an augmentation or alternative to other crops.



*Southern Sweet Pea varietal taste testing (consumer preference study) at Montrose farmers market*

## Conservation & Land Use

### **Alamosa County, Comprehensive Plan Update**

Grantee: Alamosa County

Basin: Rio Grande

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Description: In its comprehensive plan update, Alamosa County is focusing on how dwindling water supplies will reshape land-use practices in the San Luis Valley. This effort engages the community and develops strategies for sustainable growth, balancing agriculture, housing, and recreation.

### **Single Family Home Water Audits and Installs**

Grantee: Mile High Youth Corps

Basin: Metro

Grant Amount: \$183,201

Description: Mile High Youth Corps' Energy & Water Conservation Program trains and employs young adults to complete 510 water-efficiency service visits to low-income households. These visits include replacing inefficient fixtures with low-flow alternatives and ultra-high efficiency toilets, reducing water and energy consumption while helping families save money and promoting conservation efforts in the Denver Metro area.

### **Advancing High Impact Water Efficiency Solutions in Colorado Communities, Phase 2**

Grantee: Multiplier, WaterNow

Basin: Statewide

Grant Amount: \$331,885

Description: WaterNow and their fiscal partner Multiplier will continue their efforts to accelerate and fund high-impact water efficiency projects, focusing on integrating water use efficiency with land use planning. This second phase includes technical assistance for municipal water providers, leadership development, and support for underserved communities accessing federal and state funding, helping Colorado communities close supply gaps and promote sustainable water management.

## Engagement & Innovation

### **Colorado Water Fellows Program**

Grantee: Colorado State University

Basin: South Platte, Metro, Colorado, Southwest

Grant Amount: \$306,000

Description: The Colorado Water Fellows Program at Colorado State University is expanding to six universities across three river basins. Participants in the Water Fellows Program range from first-year undergraduates to Ph.D. candidates from historically marginalized or excluded communities and identities. The current cohort represents 15 distinct degree programs from engineering to sociology. The year-long program provides comprehensive exposure to practical and theoretical facets of water management and sustainability, including conference attendance, field trips, topical monthly educational sessions, and a stipend to support their participation. By fostering diverse talent and providing comprehensive education in water management, the program builds a skilled and resilient workforce, addressing challenges such as talent retention and diversity, and aligning with Colorado's water equity goals.



*The 2024 Water Fellows Cohort*

## **Place-Based Water Education in Southwest Colorado**

Grantee: Montezuma Land Conservancy

Basin: Southwest

Grant Amount: \$112,000

Description: The Montezuma Land Conservancy is implementing hands-on water education in partnership with local charter schools, focusing on local watersheds and water systems while incorporating Indigenous perspectives. By engaging a diverse student body, including many Ute and Navajo youth, the project will enhance water stewardship knowledge and confidence, align with Colorado Water Plan goals, and promote equity in water education.

## **Custer County Conservation District Water Stakeholder Engagement**

Grantee: Custer County Conservation District

Basin: Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$68,400

Description: This project will proactively address Custer County's water needs while supporting the Arkansas Basin Roundtable's goals for water quality and agricultural preservation. By conducting wildfire preparedness assessments, evaluating irrigation infrastructure, and educating pond owners on compliance, the project seeks to enhance water management practices and serve as a model for other districts in the Arkansas River Basin.

## **Water Storage & Supply**

### **Welton Reservoir Expansion**

Grantee: The Consolidated Mutual Water Company

Basin: Metro

Grant Amount: \$919,441

Description: The Consolidated Mutual Water Company will expand the Welton Reservoir in Arvada, including increasing drought storage and accommodating additional water rights. This project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan by addressing water storage needs, enhancing regional water resilience, and optimizing infrastructure investments, supporting both local communities and broader water management goals.



*Welton Reservoir*

### **Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Study**

Grantee: Donala Water and Sanitation District

Basin: Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$290,000

Description: The Donala Water and Sanitation District will transition from non-renewable groundwater to renewable surface water through aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), enhancing future water supply sustainability. This pilot project aims to retrofit a well for ASR, demonstrating feasibility and promoting regional collaboration on water resource management, while aligning with the Colorado Water Plan's goals for vibrant communities and resilient planning.

## **Raw Water and Infiltration Gallery Infrastructure Improvements**

Grantee: City of Gunnison

Basin: Gunnison

Grant Amount: \$1,500,000

Description: The City of Gunnison is constructing three new groundwater wells and a surface water diversion structure from the Gunnison River as part of a central water treatment plant project. This upgrade aims to enhance water supply capacity, protect against contamination, and create a more resilient water system, ultimately supporting the city's growing needs and regional water management goals.

## **Watershed Health & Recreation**

### **Alamosa Riverfront Project, Phase I**

Grantee: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Basin: Rio Grande

Grant Amount: \$182,900

Description: This project will finalize designs, engineering, and permitting for new public river access, recreation infrastructure, and aquatic habitat enhancements along the Rio Grande River through the Town of Alamosa. The project will also rehabilitate a downstream agricultural diversion, improving deliveries to water users, creating fish passage, and addressing recreational safety concerns. This multi-benefit project will improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and support recreation while advancing key Colorado Water Plan goals for vibrant communities, thriving watersheds, and resilient water management.

### **North Sand Creek Health & Water Quality**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Basin: North Platte

Grant Amount: \$57,634

Description: Ducks Unlimited is developing a long-term plan to address severe erosion and sedimentation in North Sand Creek, which hinders irrigation water diversions and impacts fisheries. The plan will address mitigating sediment transport, benefiting agricultural water use and improving wildlife habitat, while also supporting recreational planning efforts in collaboration with stakeholders like Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management.



*North Sand Creek*

### **South Arkansas River Restoration Concept Design**

Grantee: Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Basin: Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$62,709

Description: The Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited will develop concept designs and cost estimates for the re-naturalization of a 1.2-mile stretch of the South Arkansas River near Salida. This project aims to restore in-stream habitat and the riparian corridor in collaboration with local organizations and landowners, who support conservation efforts amidst development pressures. The plan includes an "Ecosystems Learning Center" for community education, with the restored corridor also serving as a fire break in a high wildfire risk area.

# Water Plan Grant FAQs

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## Who can apply?

- Governmental entities: municipalities, districts, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities.
- Covered entities as defined in Section 37-60-126, C.R.S., are eligible if the applicant has adopted an approved water conservation plan.
- Private entities: mutual ditch companies, non-profit corporations, and partnerships.
- For more information about FY24 WPG projects, see the [September 2023](#) and [March 2024](#) CWCB Board Meeting notes.

## How can the money be used?

- Examples of eligible projects and activities:
  - Technical assistance regarding permitting, feasibility studies, and environmental compliance.
  - Studies or analysis of structural, programmatic, consumptive, and non-consumptive water projects or activities.
  - Design of structural projects or activities.
  - Activities that promote education, outreach, and innovation consistent with the mission and goals of the Colorado Water Plan.
  - Researching and demonstrating methods to improve agricultural drought resilience.

## How can I apply?

- Applicants must submit application materials through the CWCB portal (July 1 and December 1 deadlines).
- Review these [Partner Actions](#). How does the project advance Colorado Water Plan goals?
- Visit [cwc.colorado.gov/funding/colorado-water-plan-grants](https://cwc.colorado.gov/funding/colorado-water-plan-grants) for more information.
- Reach out to your [Regional Water Plan Grant Manager](#) for pre-application questions.

To learn more or if you have questions, please email [waterplan.info@state.co.us](mailto:waterplan.info@state.co.us), call 303-866-3441 or visit the Colorado Water Conservation Board website at, <https://cwc.colorado.gov>.



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

## Operations

### Upper Basin

Low inflows and reservoir storage prompted multiple reservoir operation changes and Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) activities in WY 2022 and 2023. To protect critical infrastructure in Lake Powell, Reclamation decreased WY 2022 Lake Powell releases. May 2022 - April 2023 Flaming Gorge reservoir releases were increased as part of the Drought Response Operations Plan. Lake Powell rose above elevation 3525' in May 2022 and fell below that threshold elevation in December 2022. Due to improved hydrologic conditions in WY 2023, Lake Powell elevations rose significantly in April 2023 and remain above the 3525' threshold.

High spring runoff and increasing reservoir elevations prompted the cessation of Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) releases in March 2023, changing focus to recovery of previously released DROA water for the May 2023 - April 2024 plan, and a substantial increase in WY 2023 releases from Lake Powell. WY 2023 was the first year in which Lake Powell operated in the Lower Elevation Balancing Tier. In that tier, releases from Lake Powell are initially set to 7.0 MAF but can be adjusted up to a maximum of 9.5 MAF based on inflow and reservoir storage forecasts. Releases were adjusted monthly from April through September based on updated inflow and reservoir storage forecasts. Lake Powell releases totaled 8.58 MAF for WY 2023, including the release of the 480,000 acre-feet withheld in Lake Powell in WY 2022. As the Lake Powell inflow forecasts declined quickly due to the warm and dry summer conditions in the Upper Basin and Lake Mead storage projections increased due to precipitation and decreasing demand in the Lower Basin, Reclamation decreased Lake Powell releases, but still inadvertently released 40,000 acre-feet more from Powell than was required under balancing. They claim to have no authority to correct this inadvertent release.

In spring 2023 as Lake Powell elevation was very low but inflow and elevation were rising, Reclamation increased releases significantly for several days to mobilize sediment remaining in the system from tributary inflows below Glen Canyon Dam and deposit it onto eroding sandbars within the Grand Canyon. Reclamation increased powerplant releases and made releases through the bypass tubes similar to a High Flow Experiment (HFE), but this high release was conducted outside the LTEMP protocol for such experiments. This was the first time releases of that magnitude were made through the bypass tubes with Lake Powell at such a low elevation, and the altered hydraulic conditions damaged one of the bypass tubes. Reclamation is evaluating potential short-term limitations to Glen Canyon Dam operations and long-term actions to prevent additional damage to the bypass tubes and has issued temporary guidance limiting bypass tube releases at low elevation while it analyzes potential solutions.

In WY 2024 Lake Powell operated in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier with a fixed annual release of 7.48 MAF. Streamflow at the Lees Ferry gage includes Lake Powell releases, flow of water around the Glen Canyon dam through bank storage and leakage, and inflows from

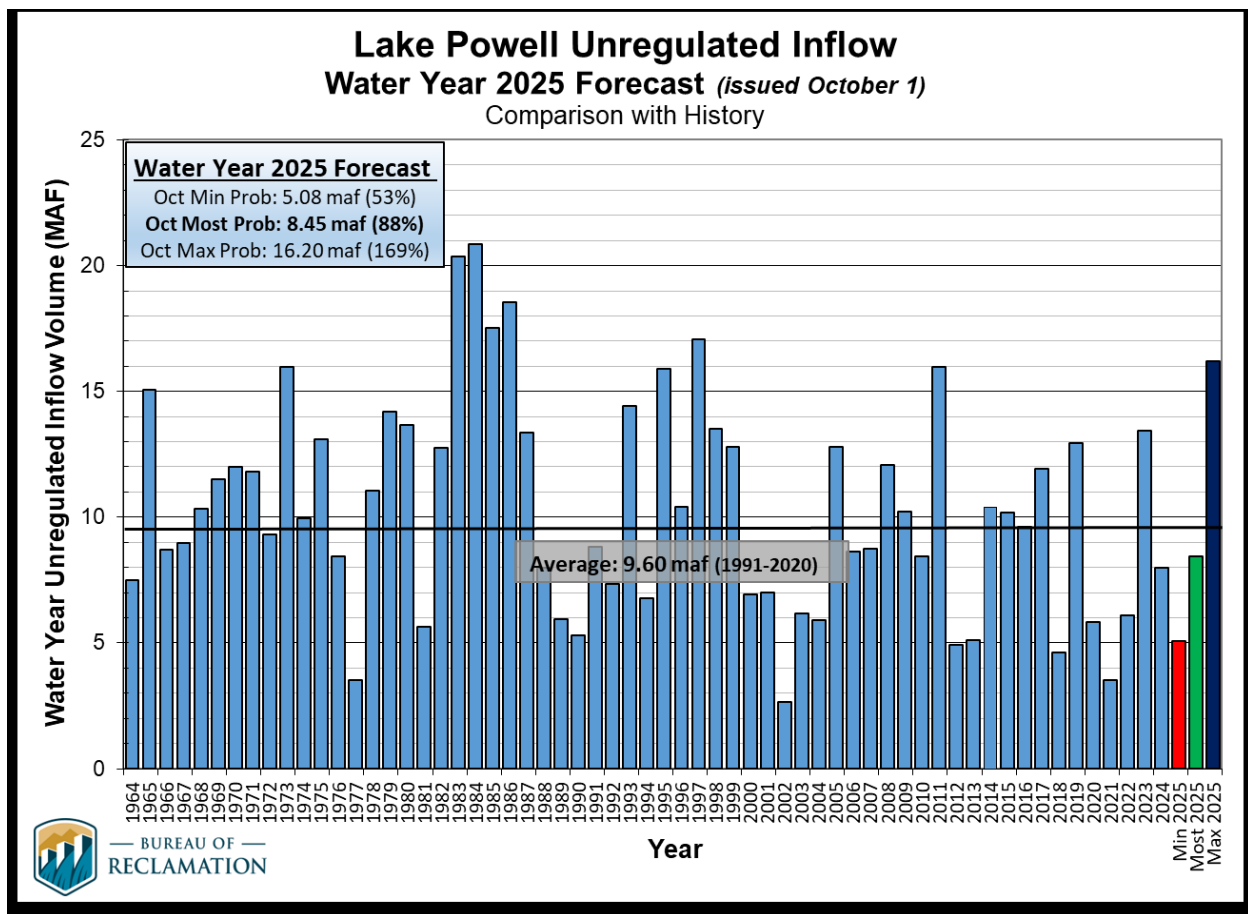


the Paria River. The 10-year cumulative streamflow at Lees Ferry through WY 2024 was approximately 86 million acre-feet.

Blue Mesa reservoir achieved recovery of its previously released DROA water in late December 2023. Flaming Gorge reservoir achieved recovery of previously released DROA water in late February 2024. No DROA operations are expected during the May 2024 - April 2025 DROA planning period.

DROA actions helped protect critical infrastructure in Lake Powell from late 2021 through April 2023. However, half of the DROA water in Lake Powell was released in WY 2023 as part of the balancing releases. Lake Powell elevations are now lower than they would have been without DROA releases, leaving Lake Powell at increased risk of dropping below critical elevations in the future. The lack of long-term effectiveness of the 2021 - 2023 DROA releases does not match the goals and objectives of the DROA and may factor into future Upper Basin DCP decisions.

As determined by Reclamation’s August 2024 24-Month Study, Lake Powell will operate in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier in WY 2025 with a fixed annual release of 7.48 MAF.



## Lower Basin

The table below describes the Interim Guideline Lower Basin shortage tiers, reduction of deliveries to Mexico pursuant to Minute 323, Lower Basin DCP contributions and Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan contributions as determined by projected elevations at Lake Mead. In Calendar Year 2023 Lake Mead operated in a Tier 2a shortage condition. In CY 2024 Lake Mead is operating in a Tier 1 shortage condition. As determined by the August 2024 24-Month Study, Lake Mead will also operate in a Tier 1 shortage condition in CY 2025.

2007 Interim Guidelines, Minute 323, Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan, and Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan  
Total Volumes (kaf)

Lake Mead Elevation (feet msl)	2007 Interim Guidelines Shortages		Minute 323 Delivery Reductions	Total Combined Reductions	DCP Water Savings Contributions			Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Savings	Combined Volumes by Country US: (2007 Interim Guidelines Shortages + DCP Contributions) Mexico: (Minute 323 Delivery Reductions + Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan Savings)					Total Combined Volumes
	AZ	NV	Mexico	Lower Basin States + Mexico	AZ	NV	CA	Mexico	AZ Total	NV Total	CA Total	Lower Basin States Total	Mexico Total	Lower Basin States + Mexico
1,090 - 1,075	0	0	0	0	192	8	0	41	192	8	0	200	41	241
1,075 - 1050	320	13	50	383	192	8	0	30	512	21	0	533	80	613
1,050 - 1,045	400	17	70	487	192	8	0	34	592	25	0	617	104	721
1,045 - 1,040	400	17	70	487	240	10	200	76	640	27	200	867	146	1,013
1,040 - 1,035	400	17	70	487	240	10	250	84	640	27	250	917	154	1,071
1,035 - 1,030	400	17	70	487	240	10	300	92	640	27	300	967	162	1,129
1,030 - 1,025	400	17	70	487	240	10	350	101	640	27	350	1,017	171	1,188
<1,025	480	20	125	625	240	10	350	150	720	30	350	1,100	275	1,375

The Secretary of the Interior will take affirmative actions to implement programs designed to create or conserve 100,000 acre-ft per annum or more of Colorado River System water to contribute to conservation of water supplies in Lake Mead and other Colorado River reservoirs in the lower basin. All actions taken by the United States shall be subject to applicable law, including availability of appropriations.

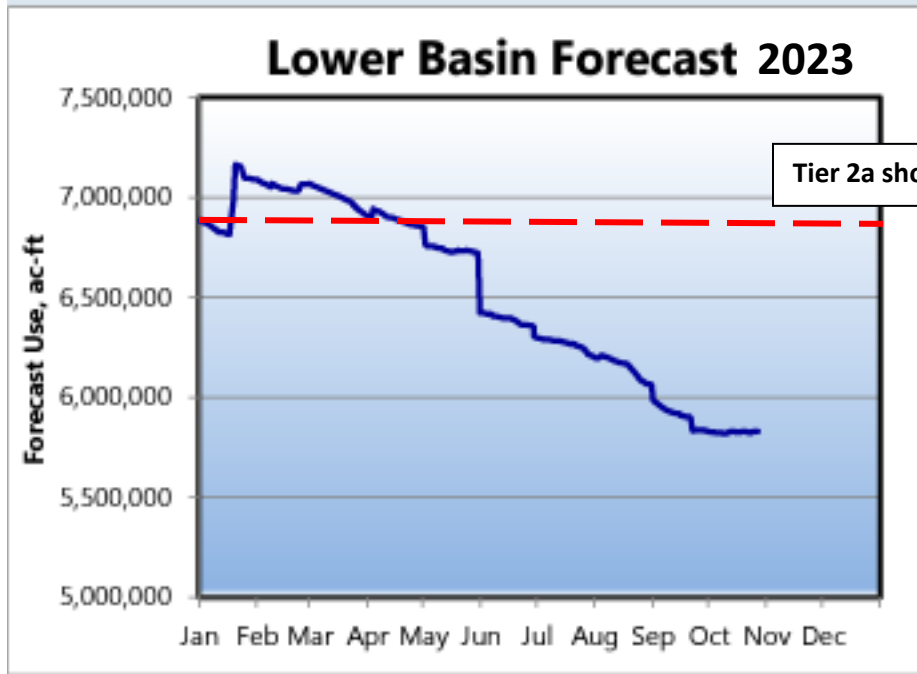
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Early in CY 2023, the Lower Basin was projecting to consumptively use up to 7.2 MAF - about 320,000 AF more than their allocation under Tier 2a shortage. This would have involved the withdrawal of banked ICS. However, as the spring came, historic precipitation flooded the Arizona tributaries, and the California State Water Project issued a 100% allocation for the first time since the year 2006 (due to high snow in the Sierras; Lake Oroville spilled by May 2023). Hurricane Hilary in August 2023 further reduced Lower Basin demands due to heavy local precipitation. The large decrease in demands allowed for creation of ICS instead of the projected withdrawal. This “historically low consumptive use” in the Lower Basin was due to local hydrology - it was not caused by significant actions by the Lower Basin contractors.







### California State Water Project Allocation

YEAR	DATE	ALLOCATION
2020	12/2/2019	10%
	1/24/2020	15%
	5/22/2020	20%
2021	12/1/2020	10%
	3/23/2021	5%
2022	12/1/2021	0% <sup>3</sup>
	1/20/2022	15%
	3/18/2022	5% <sup>4</sup>
2023	12/1/2022	5% <sup>5</sup>
	1/26/2023	30%
	2/22/2023	35%
	3/24/2023	75%
	4/20/2023	100%



In addition to the shortages agreed to pursuant to the 2007 Guidelines and 2019 Drought Contingency Plans, in December 2021 the Lower Division States also committed to creating an additional 500,000 acre-feet of water per year in 2021-2022, and 2023, of conserved water to remain in Lake Mead on a voluntary basis. Planned conservation in late 2022 and 2023 increased significantly from 2022 projections, reflecting the improved hydrology in the Lower Basin. Similar to shortage conditions, the amount of water conserved in Lake Mead under the “500+ Plan” may be partially offset by other withdrawals.

The Lower Basin proposed up to 3 million acre-feet of compensated conservation and other activities through 2025 to address drought conditions as part of Reclamation’s Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) process to contemplate additional changes to Lake Powell and Lake Mead reservoir operations through the end of the Interim Guidelines (“near-term operations”). Reclamation released its final Interim Guidelines SEIS in March 2024 and issued its Record of Decision (ROD) in May 2024. The final SEIS analyzed only two alternatives, a No Action alternative and the Lower Basin alternative, removing the previously proposed action alternatives from final consideration. Reclamation is adding the expected conservation volumes to its models as conservation agreements with participating entities are signed, which is increasing projected Lake Mead elevations. The contracted conservation volumes as of August 2024 are summarized in the tables below. The hydrology-driven increase in ICS creation in 2023 is also reflected.

## Status of SEIS ROD Lower Basin Conservation<sup>1</sup> As of August 2024 (all volumes in acre-feet)

State	LCB Water Entitlement Holder/Tribe	2023	2024	2025	2026
Arizona	Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation SCW	13,933	13,933	13,933	
Arizona	Gila River Indian Community SCW	91,319	125,000	125,000	
Arizona	Hopi Tribe SCW	2,679	3,059	3,059	
Arizona	San Carlos Apache Tribe SCW	23,804			
Arizona	Central Arizona Project (CAP) Subcontractors SCW	141,400	129,400	128,800	2,400
Arizona	Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District SCW	12,819	13,441	13,441	
Arizona	Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District SCW	21,556	21,795	21,795	
Arizona	Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage District SCW	1,682	2,328	2,328	
Arizona	Cathcart Farms SCW	57	61	61	
Arizona	GM Gabrych Family Limited Partnership SCW	3,240	3,240	3,240	
Arizona	CAP ICS Preservation Program	41,776			
California	Coachella Valley Water District SCW	35,000	35,000	45,000	10,000
California	Quechan Tribe-Metropolitan Water District (MWD) SCW	13,000	13,000	13,000	
California	Palo Verde Irrigation District-MWD SCW	71,507	117,021	117,021	79,830
California	Imperial Irrigation District SCW	106,111			
California	MWD Extraordinary Conservation ICS	450,000			
California	MWD Extraordinary Conservation Left in Lake Mead (non-ICS)	25,066			
Nevada	SNWA Tributary Conservation ICS	36,075			
Nevada	SNWA Extraordinary Conservation Left in Mead (non-ICS)	88,156			
<b>Annual Volumes</b>		<b>1,179,180</b>	<b>477,278</b>	<b>486,678</b>	<b>92,230</b>
<b>Cumulative Volumes</b>		<b>1,179,180</b>	<b>1,656,458</b>	<b>2,143,136</b>	<b>2,235,366</b>

<sup>1</sup> Volumes reflect final accounting in the 2023 Water Accounting Report and executed system conservation agreements based on current projections. Any projected or provisional volumes are subject to change. Additional conservation activities are being considered including system conservation, ICS, and other conserved water in 2024, 2025, and 2026. These additional activities will be included in Reclamation’s operational modeling.



## Projected Modeled Conservation Activities

As anticipated to be modeled in the August 2024 Most Probable 24-Month Study<sup>1,2</sup>

Conservation Activity (ac-ft)	2024	2025	2026	Total
242 Wellfield Additional Pumping Agreement	25,000	25,000	25,000	75,000
CAP ICS Preservation Program	0	0	0	0
CAP System Conservation Agreements	129,400	128,800	2,400	260,600
Cathcart Farms System Conservation	61	61	0	121
Cibola Valley IDD System Conservation	2,328	2,328	0	4,656
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation System Conservation	13,933	13,933	0	27,866
GM Gabrych System Conservation	3,240	3,240	0	6,480
GRIC System Conservation	125,000	125,000	0	250,000
Hopi Tribe System Conservation	3,059	3,059	0	6,118
MVIDD System Conservation	13,441	13,441	0	26,882
San Carlos Apache Tribe System Conservation	0	0	0	0
YMIDD System Conservation	21,795	21,795	0	43,590
Coachella Groundwater System Conservation	35,000	35,000	0	70,000
Coachella Ag System Conservation	1,063	10,000	10,000	21,063
CA Other Conserved Water Left in Lake Mead	41,928	0	0	41,928
PVID-MWD System Conservation	117,021	117,021	79,830	313,872
Quechan Indian Tribe-MWD System Conservation	13,000	13,000	0	26,000
SNWA Other Conserved Water Left in Lake Mead	90,000	40,000	35,000	165,000
SNWA Tributary ICS/System Water	36,000	30,000	30,000	96,000
Pilot System Conservation Program	545	545	545	1,635
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>671,814</b>	<b>582,223</b>	<b>182,775</b>	<b>1,436,811</b>

<sup>1</sup> Volumes reflect executed agreements and/or current operational projections and are subject to change. Additional conservation activities are being considered. After new agreements are finalized and executed, these additional activities will be included in Reclamation's operational modeling.  
<sup>2</sup> New agreements under the LC Conservation Program are being developed.



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### Minute 330: Expansion of Colorado River Temporary Measures

The United States and Mexico entered into Minute 330 to the 1944 U.S. - Mexico Water Treaty in April 2024. This agreement includes a commitment from Mexico to generate 400,000 acre-feet of water through conservation projects through 2026. 250,000 acre-feet of water will benefit the Colorado River System, and Mexico will receive \$65 million from the United States to help fund that conservation effort. The additional 150,000 acre-feet of water will be deferred for delivery beyond CY 2026 as part of Mexico's Water Reserve. These volumes are in addition to any volumes conserved under Minute 323. Both minutes expire in 2026. The schedule for generation of water by Mexico is described in the table below.

Date	Minimum Cumulative Volume (acre-feet)	Minimum Cumulative Volume (cubic meters)
By December 31, 2024	133,000	164,054,000
By December 31, 2025	333,000	410,752,000
By December 31, 2026	400,000	493,396,000

Minute 330 can be accessed at the following link: [Minute No. 330](#)

### LTEMP

Reclamation recently released its Final SEIS and ROD for the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) that explores options for changing monthly and daily releases and release temperatures to help prevent establishment of smallmouth bass



and other non-native fish in the Grand Canyon and to alter sediment accounting and implementation windows for high flow experiments to distribute sand higher on sandbars. The options include releases through the bypass tubes, limited by the new interim operating guidance. LTEMP does not alter annual releases, which are determined according to the Interim Guidelines. Bypass releases to reduce water temperatures from Glen Canyon Dam to disadvantage smallmouth bass reproduction began July 9 and are expected to continue through mid-November. Monitoring is being conducted to assess the effectiveness of the colder release temperature operations. Bypass releases decrease hydropower production from Glen Canyon Dam and increase costs to hydropower customers to obtain alternate power supplies. Current estimates of the cost of the 2024 bypass releases to the Western Area Power Administration's Basin Fund, which funds the operation and maintenance of the Colorado River Storage Project reservoirs, powerplants and related infrastructure, exceeds \$18 million.

## **2. Upper Colorado River Commission Memorandum of Understanding**

At an October 28 Upper Colorado River Commission meeting, the UCRC approved a Memorandum of Understanding to provide provisional accounting for water conservation and other demonstration projects. The MOU outlines general methodology for provisional accounting for participating water projects enrolled in conservation or other demonstration projects through the interim period. Water that is provisionally accounted for may then be eligible to obtain credit subject to a subsequent decision or agreement, including through the Demand Management Storage Agreement or the Post-2026 framework.

At the Board meeting, staff will also provide an update on discussions relating to Post-2026 Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, as well as ongoing work within the state to finalize Surface Measurement Rules and how that ties in with any applicable future rulemaking.



# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**General Manager Report**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** November 16, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** Committee, Treasurer & General Manager Report (November)

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### **I. Treasurer's Report**

- A. Investments:** The Federal Home Loan Bank CUSIP Treasury Note 91282CDH1 purchased for \$204,335.35 at an interest rate of 0.750% matured on November 15, 2024, at a value of \$205,019.11. The funds were moved to ColoTrust Plus where monthly yield currently stands at 5.02% (October 2024 statement).

### **II. General Manager Report**

#### **A. Projects & Fundraising**

- The Nature Conservancy has agreed to provide UGRWCD with a grant of \$25,000 for the purchase of a Wet Meadows UTV and Trailer (Contingent on board approval). More information provided as part of the Wet Meadows Program update below.

#### **B. Watershed Management Planning (WMP)**

For an update of activities of the WMP, please see attached draft WMP Committee **Meeting Minutes** from November 13, 2024.

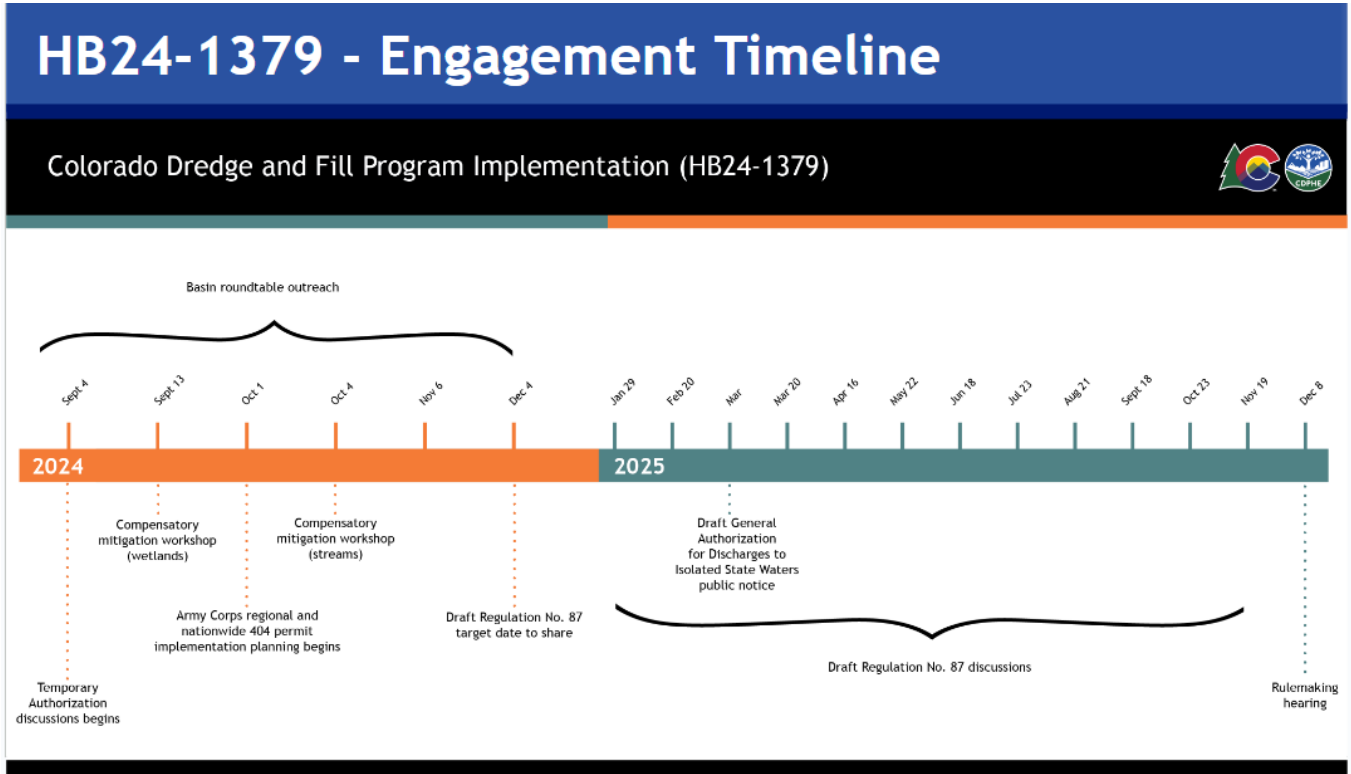
#### **C. WQCD Reg 87: Dredge & Fill – November 6, 2024**

- Recap and feedback summary from the October Stream Mitigation Workshop
- Review of the schedule and status of the Division's progress implementing HB24-1379 including review of the temporary authorization program and an update on the statewide authorization for discharge to isolated state waters.

HB24-1379 requires the Division to issue a statewide general authorization for discharges to isolated waters (Definition: Wetlands, isolated ponds and impoundments, and isolated ordinary high-water mark reaches). The Isolated State Waters General Authorization is currently being drafted. Division is

aiming for public notice in Spring of 2025 with a public comment period of 60 days.

- Review of the schedule and status of Regulation No.87 development including proposed schedule and mechanisms for obtaining written feedback on the initial draft of Regulation 87.



- Discussion on how Colorado’s dredge and fill program can improve upon the federal program.

For more information including the power point presentation and meeting recording please utilize the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16kC8QOLgM4g1hIzTJiLz0aQGMtXUp5Qs>

#### D. Water In the News

1. **Aspen Journalism: Officials say water conservation program harmed Grand Valley irrigators (November 17, 2024)**

*An irrigation company in western Colorado says it is disappointed in an Upper Basin water conservation program, its impacts to the company's operations and the local agricultural community. Grand Valley Irrigation Company (GVIC) President Sean...because GVIC's participation in the conservation program resulted in impacts to one of the biggest, oldest, and most important water rights on the Western Slope: the Cameo call.*

<https://www.aspentimes.com/news/aspen-journalism-officials-say-water-conservation-program-harmed-grand-valley-irrigators/>

**2. Colorado Receives \$7M for Water Measurement in CO River Basin (CWCB Media Release: November 15, 2024)**

*The Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado Division of Water Resources are excited to announce \$7 million in funding for Colorado water users within the Upper Colorado River Basin in need of a device to measure their water diversions.*

*The Upper Colorado River Commission approved the \$7 million for Colorado on October 28. The funding comes from the Commission's federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Spend Plan. In total, the BIL provides \$8.3 billion to the Bureau of Reclamation for western water infrastructure.*

*The funding comes at a time when the Colorado Division of Water Resources is working on implementing new water measurement rules in the Colorado River, including Divisions 4, 5, 6 and 7. Rules for Division 6, which includes the Yampa, White, and Green River basins, were signed on January 16, 2024. DWR is currently in the rulemaking process for Division 7, which includes the San Juan and upper Dolores River Basins. Division 4 covers the Gunnison River basin, San Miguel River basin, lower Dolores River basin, and the Little Dolores River basin. Division 5 covers the mainstem of the Colorado River.*

*The new rules provide clarity on what an acceptable water measurement device is and where they are needed. While Colorado statute gives the State and Division Engineers authority to require water users to install measuring devices, it does not include specifics on what are considered acceptable measuring methods.*

**3. Prop JJ** passed on November 5<sup>th</sup> with 76.3 percent of voters in favor of the state keeping all sports betting revenue and using those dollars to fund water projects. A link to the full story can be found at:

<https://coloradosun.com/2024/11/05/proposition-jj-results-colorado-sports-betting/>



4. ***Bureau of Reclamation Issues Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan for Gunnison Sage-Grouse.*** A copy of the full ROD can be found at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2019031/510>

#### **E. Upper Gunnison Gap Weather Radar Update**

UGRWCD has been in communication with Eric Plomondon (Radiometrics) and Neil Bracken (Advanced Radar Company) regarding the status of the gap radar installation and scheduling user input meetings during the week of November 11<sup>th</sup>. Following is a summary update of the status:

The 8' radome (bubble looking structure that protects actual radar) is still backordered by two months. Rather than delay the installation, they have elected to build a 14' radome that can be transported by trailer in six pieces and re-assembled at the site. They are making progress on the electrical infrastructure and have plans to install November 18, 19 or 20 (weather provided). They have submitted all the state required paperwork to the State's electrical inspector who will visit the site after assembly.

UGRWCD has offered to help organize user input meetings but will not begin this task until the radar is up and running.

#### **F. Cloudseeding Program Update**

North American Weather Consultants (NAWC) was purchased by Rainmaker which according to their "About" website information... *started with the goal of solving water scarcity and identified cloud seeding as the only practical solution. Recent advancements in radar validation, modern autonomous systems, and numerical weather modeling have transformed cloud seeding into a viable commercial pursuit with demonstrable results* (November 18, 2024 Website – About).

There are no changes to our existing contract or program this year as a result of this change and NAWC has assured operations would continue as normal. For more information about Rainmaker: <https://www.makerain.com/about>

#### **G. Wet Meadows Program**

Please see attached **memorandum** from Wet Meadows Program Director, Amanda Aulenbach and Wet Meadows Field Supervisor, Ari Yamaguchi.

**Board Action Requested:** Authorize UGRWCD staff to purchase a UTV and trailer in 2025 at an estimated cost of \$25,064 and with the requirement that the vehicle be insured, senior staff be trained on safe operation, and be the only operators of the UTV.

#### H. Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) Update

- Project Team continues to meet monthly
- UGRWCD submitted semi-annual progress report, financial report and reimbursement request for \$19,055
- Drought Planning: Ag water user input tentatively scheduled to follow Gunnison County Stockgrowers meeting on December 3, 2024.

### III. Scientific Endeavors

Three letters of support requested and prepared by UGRWCD:

1. **USBR System Conservation & Efficiency (B2E) Bucket** - Gunnison Conservation District. Supports the following projects:
  - a. Red Creek Low-Tech Process Based Restoration: 2.1 miles of Red Creek (NPS, CPW, BLM)
  - b. True West Ranch – Cochetopa Creek: Restoration improvement 1.2 miles of stream below any irrigation diversions (USFS).
  - c. Ocate Streambank Restoration Project – Cebolla Creek: Restoration of approximately 1,800 feet (Water Right Owner, NRCS, USFWS, TU)
  - d. Lick Park Wet Meadow Restoration – Process based restoration intermittent stream system (USFS, UGRWCD Wet Meadows Program)
2. **USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA):** *AdaptAg Atlas – Enhancing Irrigated Agriculture Resilience through Web-Based Water Valuation and Climate Adaptation Strategies.*
3. **National Science Foundation** (Oregon State University – Keira Johnson): *Developing a solute-discharge synchrony framework for assessing controls on hydro-biogeochemistry along the river continuum.*

## WMP Minutes

**To:** Watershed Management Planning Committee  
**From:** Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Project Manager  
**Date:** November 13, 2024  
**Subject:** Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Committee Meeting

A meeting of the WMP Committee was held on November 13, 2024, at 1:30 PM.

Board members present were Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania, and Mike Rogers. Staff present were Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, Bailey Friedman, and Amanda Aulenbach. Others in attendance included Lisa Brown and Erin Wilson of Wilson Water Group (WWG).

Agenda topics included an introduction to Bailey Friedman (WMP Project Manager), proposed approach for preparing final draft of the WMP report and discussion of remaining tasks, budget, and proposed timeline.

As a result of these discussions, the following tasks were identified:

- WWG: Identify boundary and assessment map differences
- Other items which need to be included:
  - Assessments not previously identified (e.g., DCP, Source Water Protection, etc.)
  - Legal framework update (John McClow)  
Public Outreach: Feedback on plan will be received as part of a public comment period.
  - Agricultural assessments (on-going) but need a summary of approach, activities and accomplishments to date (e.g., maps where projects assessed or completed).
- The “Project List” will be a “living” document maintained by the District that could also serve as a resource for Gunnison Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan Updates (BIPs), District Grant Funded projects, or projects the District may want to provide political letters of support. UGRWCD will annually solicit information from stakeholders on potential projects to include in the database.
- Staff will develop a Power Point Presentation (PPT) template for consultants to use.
- Consultants will summarize their projects in 3-5 slides with high-level takeaways for each basin. Staff will review and evaluate in collaboration with WMP Committee.
- Outreach to previously targeted stakeholders will occur via an email to include takeaways for each basin from consultant assessments, request for updates on potential projects to add (example project form provide by UGRWCD), a link to the WMP final draft, and the full PPT identifying key summary findings/takeaways from assessments.

**Next Meeting:** December 11, 2024, at 1:30 PM. District Board Room and a Zoom Link to be distributed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM by WMP Chair, Stacy McPhail

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Program Director  
Ari Yamaguchi, Wet Meadows Field Supervisor  
**DATE:** November 25, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** UTV: Analysis of Rental versus Purchase

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**Background:** At the October 2024 regular meeting, staff had a discussion with the Board about the potential purchase of a UTV with dump and trailer for transporting. The Board of Directors (BOD) directed staff to conduct an analysis of the cost of renting versus purchasing. The following is a summary of those assessment results.

**Update:** Since our last discussion with the BOD at the October 2024 meeting, UGRWCD has been able to secure a funding commitment of \$25,000 from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for the purchase of a UTV and trailer for the Wet Meadows Program, if approved by the BOD.

**Rental options:** Of the three shops in the Gunnison Valley, two responded to UGRWCD's inquiries.

CB Motorsports: They have one UTV that has a bed size large enough for our purposes (unclear if it's hydraulically operated though). Cost is \$435/6hr, no discounts available; a full workday would then be closer to \$870/day plus potentially more if we get it the night before or return it the day after; additional delivery fees depending on the destination; a trailer would rent for an additional \$40/day. We would be charged for any "damage above normal wear" and we're guessing hauling rock and trampling sagebrush would exceed that threshold. This option is significantly more expensive than the other one (base rate, delivery fees, and damage fees are all higher than K10 below). Machine would be available as long as we make the reservation at least 3-7 days in advance.

K10: They will soon be buying a unit that fits Wet Meadow Program needs and they would not be concerned about wear from rocks. The unit would rent for \$200-\$500/day, including a government discount; a trailer would rent for an additional \$25/day. Price fluctuates on two criteria: 1) time of year (more expensive around busy tourist times) and 2) how many days out of the year we end up renting (We gave them an estimate of 10-30 days/year; more days = lower cost per day).

If there were damage to the unit, they would consider removing the out-of-commission clause of the rental contract if we rent for enough days in the year (closer to 30 than 10).

Any rental option: We would be competing with the general tourist market on any given day, which adds another complicating factor to scheduling and coordinating work among crews/materials/other equipment, especially in a scenario where we get rained out and need to

reschedule quickly (or any other number of countless scenarios we can and have seen in the field that force a quick pivot).

Making some basic assumption and a rental cost of \$350/day and usage of 20 days/year, we would reach the cost of purchase (~\$25,000) in ~3.5 years. Payoff time will decrease further if the machine (w/ UGRWCD driver) is rented out for Cheatgrass and/or other agencies' purposes, provided that the purpose is consistent with UGRWCD goals and mission.

**Purchasing:**

See spreadsheet for itemized list, including prices.

Trailer: The cost may vary depending upon several factors and for simplicity's sake, staff have utilized the highest cost in the "Purchase estimate" (See "Trailer estimates" information provided as Attachment A). In addition, the final price will depend on which vendor has a suitable model in stock around the time of purchase.

**Conclusions & Recommendations of Executive Management:** Wet Meadows staff have discussed the information above with Executive Management. General Manager Chavez feels that given that we have a partner willing to help with the purchase of the UTV and trailer and the unknowns and complications around scheduling day of use (e.g., postponement due to weather delays, high cost during tourist season, added expenses for hours after pick-up and drop-off times), potential cost of and penalties for damage to UTV's with rental agencies, etc., she is comfortable recommending to the Board that they support the purchase of the UTV and trailer provided that UGRWCD Wet Meadows senior staff obtain training, are the only individuals operating the UTV, and that the UTV be properly insured.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION:** Authorize UGRWCD staff to purchase a UTV and trailer in 2025 at an estimated cost of \$25,064 and with the requirement that the vehicle be insured, senior staff be trained on safe operation, and be the only operators of the UTV.

**Attachment A**

<b>1. Purchase Estimate:</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Replacement interval (yrs)</b>	<b>Vendor URL</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Kubota RTV-X1130WL-H	\$19,314.98		<a href="https://shop.kubotausa.com/buildmykubota/3-Utility%2BVehicle/1014-RTV-X%20Series/RTV-X1130WL-H">https://shop.kubotausa.com/buildmykubota/3-Utility%2BVehicle/1014-RTV-X%20Series/RTV-X1130WL-H</a>	Final price may vary depending on the add-ons we select. This is the Sourcwell quote with the add-ons mimicking Nate's unit.
Winter cover	\$162.95		<a href="https://www.carcovers.com/covers/atv-and-utv/kubota/rtv-x1140/2025.html">https://www.carcovers.com/covers/atv-and-utv/kubota/rtv-x1140/2025.html</a>	Optional
Diesel (yearly)	\$200.00	1		Based on diesel price in Oct 2024 (\$3.43/gal)
State registration	\$25.25	1	<a href="https://cpw.state.co.us/register-off-highway-vehicle#4257225834-3761891082">https://cpw.state.co.us/register-off-highway-vehicle#4257225834-3761891082</a>	As of Oct 2024
Trailer*	\$5,749.00		<a href="https://www.pinecountryinc.com/2025-lamar-trailers-utility-ramp-gate-trailer-other-MuTq tJm.html">https://www.pinecountryinc.com/2025-lamar-trailers-utility-ramp-gate-trailer-other-MuTq tJm.html</a>	Payload 3525lb; empty trailer wt 1475; Kubota is ~2340lb; Tacoma towing capacity = 6800lb. Kubota+trailer=~3815, so we are good, even with bodies&tools in truck. *Likely an overestimate; price will vary depending on what local vendors have in stock at the time of purchase.
Wood stain	\$145.00	5	<a href="https://www.trailerdecking.com/ExoShield-Apitong-Oil-Walnut-Wood-Stain-Exterior-Oil-4029">https://www.trailerdecking.com/ExoShield-Apitong-Oil-Walnut-Wood-Stain-Exterior-Oil-4029</a>	As of Oct 2024. Replacement interval is a guess
State registration & ownership tax	\$89.00	1		Ownership tax \$51; registration fee \$38
Ratchet straps (4)	\$155.96	5	<a href="https://www.acehardware.com/departments/automotive-rv-and-marine/tie-down-straps-and-bungees/tie-downs/8872764">https://www.acehardware.com/departments/automotive-rv-and-marine/tie-down-straps-and-bungees/tie-downs/8872764</a>	\$38.99 ea.
UTV + Trailer cost	<b>\$25,063.98</b>			
Startup cost (total)*	\$25,842.14			
Yearly cost*	\$374.44			
*Not including maintenance or insurance				

**Attachment A**

**2. Kubota add-ons:**

**Note that add-ons are still to be finalized; those listed here are the ones that Nate Seward (CPW) got for the UTV used by Wet Meadows in 2024 field season.**

	<b>Price</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Sourcewell quote:</b>			
RTV-X1130WL-H	\$21,099.00		
Canopy (plastic)	\$537.36		
Windshield (acrylic)	\$564.48		
Winch kit 3500lb	\$542.73	\$22,743.57	
Sourcewell discount	-\$5,003.59	\$17,739.98	
Dealer assembly	\$412.50		
Freight cost (to Grand Junction)	\$712.50		We pick up from GJ
PDI	\$400.00		
Title free	\$50.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,314.98</b>		

**Attachment A**

<b>3. Trailer Estimates:</b>					
	Specs:				
	Minimum payload capacity ~2500lb (Kubota is 2340lb before add-ons); for the most part, this requires a dual-axle				
	Minimum bed dimensions 14'x70" (Kubota is 12.75'x63"; add length for winch add-on)				
	Preference for rear gate, not separate ramps.				
<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Notes</b>				
Tractor Supply	The trailer they have can't be delivered within Colorado. Asked about nearest possible pickup location (email, 12 Nov 2024)				
Big Tex Trailer	Pickup in Denver; quote requested				
<b>Pine Country Trailers</b>	Stock # PJ9111M	Grand Junction	\$4,975	83"x14'	
Email thread bw Ari & Trent Oney.	Stock # LM9101M	Montrose	\$5,275	83"x14'	Probably best option
He is offering to throw in a spare tire for us to sweeten the deal.	Stock # LM9096M	Montrose	\$5,275	83"x14'	
<b>Parker Trailer &amp; RV</b>	Parker	\$4,010	77"x14'		Quote in folder
<b>Western Slope Trailer</b>	Grand Junction	\$4,825	77"x16'		



**Attachment A**

**4. Rental options**

<b>Googled "UTV rentals Gunnison"</b>					
K10	Gunnison	TomCar. Will know in a month (Nov) if they'll finalize the purchase. Scratches ok. 16" clearance. If renting 10 days/yr: \$5000 total; 30 days: \$6000-9000. Depends on time of summer (more expensive around 4th of July, e.g.). Also means competing with whole client base	200-500/day depending on season	Out-of-commission clause may come out if we rent for 30 days (he's never used that clause ever; it's not impossible but very unlikely--as long as he can still send the next clients out on a different machine)	GVW = 1800-2700lb, comparable to Kubota
CB Motorsports (Greg Grossman)	Crested Butte	UTV with 4'x5' bed	No discounts available. \$435/6hrs. Delivery fee. We would be charged for damage above normal wear.		
Alpenglow Rentals	Gunnison	Jeeps only; no UTVs			
Colorado Adventure Rentals AKA Action Adventures Snowmobile and ATV Tours & Rentals	Crested Butte	Web site only advertises ATVs (not UTVs). Emailed to confirm (29 Oct).			
		If we rent from K10, even at their lowest rate (\$200/day), after 120 days of usage, we would have paid off the cost of the Kubota+trailer.		Assuming 30 days of usage/yr, at \$200/day, we would pay off the Kubota in 4 years.	
		Buying also removes the issue of competing with tourism for any given date, which would be the case with renting			

**Attachment A**

<b>5. Maintenance &amp; repairs</b>
<b>RMD Powersports, Gunnison</b>
All or most warranty work will probably have to happen in Montrose, but this vendor was highly recommended for our needs after warranty



## *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

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

November 18, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Deb Haaland  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) is writing this letter in support of the Gunnison Conservation District's (District) application to the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program. If awarded through the Bucket 2 Environmental Drought Mitigation (B2E) component, this Project would fund several efforts within our water conservancy district boundary and help restore critical habitat degraded by the impacts of drought.

This Project will also improve drought resiliency throughout the watershed. UGRWCD has been a leader in working with federal, state and local partners to implement Project activities including wet meadow restoration utilizing low-tech process-based restoration techniques to address issues caused by erosion, improve grazing lands and critical habitat for threatened Gunnison Sage Grouse, and drought resiliency within the Upper Gunnison River Basin watershed. UGRWCD will collaborate with the District to implement community engagement and education with local residents and students and provide opportunities for all to be involved in the implementation. These benefits are vital to the local habitat and ecology and will support the continued sustainability of vital water resources with the Upper Colorado River Basin system.

This Project will improve wetland habitat quality and function to increase drought and wildfire resiliency, improve water quality, and support all species that thrive in these areas. We thank you for your consideration to approve this application.

Sincerely,

Sonja Chavez  
General Manager



## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

November 8, 2024

Dr. Rosemary Carroll  
Research Professor  
Division of Hydrologic Sciences  
Desert Research Institute  
2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512  
Email: [rosemary.carroll@dri.edu](mailto:rosemary.carroll@dri.edu)

Dear Dr. Carroll

I am writing to indicate our interest in supporting your grant proposal “DSFAS-CIN-CM/FM: AdaptAg Atlas - Enhancing Irrigated Agricultural Resilience through Web-Based Water Valuation and Climate Adaptation Strategies” for funding under the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) request for applications under the program of Data Science for Food and Agricultural Systems (DSFAS). Your proposed project will assist communities in selecting the most efficient adaptation strategies that protect rural economies while also considering water for multiple benefits. Your project will identify data essential for local water-use decision making through a stakeholder information needs-based assessment and a stakeholder validation of the AdaptAg Atlas, a web-based platform that estimates economic and hydrologic risk as a function of custom water supply and demand adaptation strategies at the local irrigation management level.

Your proposed novel fusion of physical, economic, and legal data to estimate risks at the watershed scale is aimed at empowering local decision-making and adaptation planning with robust and pertinent data and it is acknowledged you seek to enable resilience of critical and vulnerable irrigated agricultural systems to promote sustainable rural economies as well as food and water security.

If your proposal is funded, the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, located in the Upper Colorado River Basin, will collaborate with your research team on the following items:

- Provide information on data needs and adaptive strategies to climate induced stress in the Upper Gunnison River.
- Discuss how to ensure an appropriate level of information in the context of decision making while addressing data privacy concerns amongst our constituents.
- Advise on the data products and tools developed to ensure results are meaningful and useful to the management of the Upper Gunnison River Basin.

Sincerely,

Sonja Chavez, General Manager



## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

November 8, 2024

National Science Foundation

Re: UGRWCD Letter of Collaboration - *Developing a solute-discharge synchrony framework for assessing controls on hydro-biogeochemistry along the river continuum*

Dear NSF Proposal Review Committee:

If the proposal submitted by Keira Johnson entitled *Developing a solute-discharge synchrony framework for assessing controls on hydro-biogeochemistry along the river continuum* is selected for funding by the National Science Foundation (NSF), it is the intent of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description or the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal.

Sincerely,

Sonja Chavez, General Manager

## FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- ▶ **UGRWCD Board Meeting (Budget Approval and Resolutions) – December 9, 2024 from 5:30-5:45 p.m. VIA ZOOM ONLY**
- ▶ **WMP Committee Meeting - December 11, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.**
- ▶ **Christmas Holiday - Offices Closed - December 24 and 25, 2024**
- ▶ **Mayors and Manager's Lunch- UGRWCD Presents, Jan 9 at Noon**
- ▶ **Gunnison Basin Roundtable - January 20, 2025 at 3 p.m.**
- ▶ **UGRWCD Board Meeting - January 27, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.**
- ▶ **Colorado Water Congress Conference - January 29-31, 2025**

# UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DIVISION 1

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**TREASURER**  
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### GENERAL MANAGER

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### GENERAL COUNSEL

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**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT (UGRWCD) and  
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE**

**2025 BOARD MEETING DATES**

- Monday, January 27, 2025\*
- Monday, February 24, 2025
- Monday, March 24, 2025
- Monday, April 28, 2025
- **Tuesday, May 20, 2025 – Held in Lake City\*\***
- Monday, June 23, 2025 – ANNUAL MEETING
- Monday, July 28, 2025\*
- Monday, August 25, 2025
- Monday, September 22, 2025
- Monday, October 27, 2025
- Monday, November 24, 2025 – Public Hearing on Budget
- Monday, December 8, 2025 – Budget Passage

**\*These meeting dates will include the Water Activity Enterprise Board Meeting**

**\*\*This meeting will include the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise Board Meeting**

All meetings will be held at the UGRWCD Offices, 210 West Spencer, Suite A, Gunnison, as well as via Zoom video/teleconferencing unless otherwise noted. Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Please check the UGRWCD website for updated information for and the Zoom login link at: [www.ugrwcd.org](http://www.ugrwcd.org). 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.



The logo for Gunnison County is a dark green, irregular shape with a brown outline, resembling a map of the county. The words "GUNNISON" and "COUNTY" are written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, stacked vertically in the center of the shape.

**GUNNISON  
COUNTY**

## **2025 Gunnison County Holiday Schedule**

Wednesday	January 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Year's Day
Monday	January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
Monday	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Washington's Birthday
Monday	May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day
Thursday	June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Juneteenth
Friday	July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Independence Day
Monday	September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Labor Day
Tuesday	November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Veterans' Day
Thursday	November 27 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Day
Friday	November 28 <sup>th</sup>	Business Day after Thanksgiving
Thursday	December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day
Friday	December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Day after Christmas Day

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Public Hearing on 2025 Draft Budget**

**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT - Draft v.5**

General Fund Budget January 1 - December 31, 2025

11/19/24

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	
<b>REVENUE</b>				
1	\$ 24,795	\$ 21,920	\$ 25,000	Increased due to Contract Sales
2	\$ 1,650	\$ 30,000	\$ 43,500	
3	\$ 140,750	\$ 120,600	\$ 124,500	
4	\$ 82,141	\$ 60,000	\$ 50,000	
5	\$ 1,628,027	\$ 2,190,598	\$ 2,204,862	
6	\$ 125,805	\$ 38,696	\$ 42,000	
7	\$ 285,141	\$ 231,914	\$ 291,291	Included PEPO 2025 Income
8	\$ 339,795	\$ 320,470	\$ 385,422	Actual anticipated income included TNC for UTV
9	\$ 38,869	\$ 42,393	\$ 46,319	
10	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	
11	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 457,435	added to have 0 balance budget per Tom
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 2,666,973</b>	<b>\$ 3,061,591</b>	<b>\$ 3,680,329</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
12	\$ 26,537	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	
13	\$ 5,800	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
14	\$ 43,825	\$ 51,000	\$ 45,000	Reduced based upon 2025 quote
15	\$ 13,507	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	
16	\$ 3,358	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,500	
17	\$ 11,438	\$ 13,360	\$ 13,360	
18	\$ 22,110	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,500	
19	\$ 15,806	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
20	\$ 875	\$ 5,400	\$ 7,500	
21	\$ 42,564	\$ 23,300	\$ 32,200	
22	\$ 5,364	\$ 5,500	\$ 7,000	
23	\$ 46,753	\$ 49,410	\$ 75,000	
24	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
25	\$ 14,688	\$ 16,475	\$ 17,260	
26	\$ 7,823	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	
27	\$ 11,968	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
28	\$ 3,693	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
29	\$ 3,251	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,200	
30	\$ 9,963	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,000	
31	\$ 718,220	\$ 799,151	\$ 1,005,511	Incl potential pto payouts and actual figures
32	\$ 1,838	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	
33	\$ 7,951	\$ 7,110	\$ 9,000	
34	\$ 18,184	\$ 9,800	\$ 6,000	
35	\$ 3,065	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,500	
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,038,581</b>	<b>\$ 1,147,006</b>	<b>\$ 1,375,031</b>	
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>				
36	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	
37	\$ 10,752	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,000	
38	\$ 18,603	\$ 21,920	\$ 21,000	
39	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
40	\$ 20,980	\$ 46,000	\$ 50,000	
41	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 17,000	Increased to by \$7K
42	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	
43	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	
44	\$ 243,609	\$ 430,190	\$ 555,000	Includes unspent funds from previous cycle
45	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,000	
46	\$ 6,207	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,750	
47	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
48	\$ 13,464	\$ 13,464	\$ 13,464	
49	\$ 46,554	\$ 61,485	\$ 41,270	
50	\$ 158,574	\$ 450,500	\$ 488,375	Decreased Return Flow Study Commitment
51	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	
52	\$ 7,436	\$ 7,436	\$ 7,500	
53	\$ 259,660	\$ 379,914	\$ 312,533	Included PEPO 2025 Expenses
54	\$ 200,014	\$ 330,470	\$ 395,422	Included actual anticipated expenses
55	\$ 214,622	\$ 169,930	\$ 207,484	
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,233,975</b>	<b>\$ 2,006,309</b>	<b>\$ 2,226,298</b>	
56	\$ 814,073	\$ 207,000	\$ 55,000	
57	\$ -	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 3,086,629</b>	<b>\$ 2,237,309</b>	<b>\$ 3,680,329</b>	
<b>REVENUES OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ (419,656)</b>	<b>\$ (846,300)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	

## UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT 2025 BUDGET MESSAGE\_V2

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 (1 smaller upstairs office unit) 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 \$2.2 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
- 7e. CWCB PEPO 2025-0557

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), American the Beautiful Grant (AtBC), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) 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
- 8f. TNC-UTV Funds

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.

**Total Revenues. Total Revenues for the District in 2025 are expected to be \$3,673,329.**

### **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 Thomas N. Stoeber, P.C. 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, Administrative /Communications Support Specialist, and Wet Meadows Interns.

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

31f. 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 \$1,375,031.**



## **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. Also included in this line item are expenses associated with uncompleted projects from previous grant cycles.

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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
- 53e. CWCB PEPO 2025-0557

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. TNC-UTV
- 54g. 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 \$2,219,298.**

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.
- 56c. 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.

**Total Expenses. Total Expenses for the District in 2025 are expected to be \$3,673,329.**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Office Manager  
Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** November 25, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** Draft 2025 UGRWCD Budget

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Enclosed is a summary of changes made to the Draft 2025 budget since the October 2024 meeting.

Changes include:

- Line 1 – Aspinall Water Contract Sales – Increased amount from \$24,000 to \$25,000 due to recent water contract sales.
- Line 7 – Watershed Management Income – Includes the addition of CWCB GBRT PEPO 2025 grant funds.
- Line 8 – Wet Meadows Income – Revised income figure for the Wet Meadows Program including a funding commitment from TNC for the purchase of the UTV and trailer if approved by the Board.
- Line Item 11 – Additional Contribution from Reserve Fund – Includes the dollar amount of the difference between anticipated income and expenses required to balance the budget. This results in a zero balance budget and was a recommendation from Tom Stoeber.
- Line 14 – Accounting Services – Revised amount based upon 2025 quote from Stoeber CPA.
- Line 31 – Payroll – Includes final payroll amounts proposed for 2025 including Wet Meadow Program interns and \$20,000 to capture any potential paid time off (PTO) payouts. This is a District benefit instituted in 2024.
- Line 41 – Coal Creek Watershed Coalition – Line item increased from \$10,000 to \$17,000 due to a loss of funding from Mount Emmons Mining for metals sampling by CCWC. The General Manager has not decided if she will approve this request as she is awaiting additional information.

- Line 44 – District Grant Program – The revised amount combines the \$300,000 for the 2025 Grant Program and \$255,000 for unspent Grant funds from previous grant cycles for projects not yet completed.
- Line 50 – Regional Water Supply – This amount was decreased by \$100,000 because USGS was able to provide their full 2025 funding commitment for the Ag Return Flow Study.
- Line Item 53 – Watershed Management Expense – This line item was updated to include the CWCB PEPO 2025 expenses.
- Line 54 – Wet Meadows Expenses – Includes revised anticipated expenses for the program including an estimated \$25,064 for the purchase of a UTV and trailer if approved by the BOD.

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

## **Citizens Comments on Budget**

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Board Discussion of Public Comments on  
2025 DRAFT BUDGET**

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

**Adjournment**