Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AGENDA - REGULAR MEETING
Monday, October 27, 2025
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtcOysqTkiHN3vdBK727OuQjhtBmlCaKvV

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

5:00 p.m. **Dinner Served**

5:30 p.m. 1. **Agenda Approval**

5:31 p.m. 2. **Approval of September 22, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

5:35 p.m. 3. **Treasurer's Report**
- Review of Expenses
- Monthly Budget Summary
- Bank and Bond Balances

5:45 p.m. 4. **2026 Budget Work Session**

6:00 p.m. 5. **General Counsel Update**
- Policy Regarding Board Committees

6:10 p.m. 6. **General Manager Update**

6:20 p.m. 7. **Presentation on Cloud Seeding by North American Weather Consultants**

6:40 p.m. 8. **Basin Water Supply Update**

6:50 p.m. 9. Staff and Committee Updates

- Water Resources Projects
  - **Action**: Approval of Geofluvial Report and Story Map
  - Turf Replacement Grant Report
- Water Quality/Quantity Program
  - Pitch Uranium Mine: UGRWCD Input on Risk Assessment
  - Regulation 87
- Wet Meadow & Riparian Restoration Program
  - Presentation: Wet Meadow Restoration Prioritization Mapping by Joslin Hays, GIS Capstone Project
  - UGRWCD Technicians Year-End Presentation
  - Program Director's Memorandum
  - **Action:** Authorize GM to Hire WM Technicians Seasonally
- Education & Outreach Program
  - **Action**: Approval of 2026 Education & Outreach Action Plan
- Scientific Endeavors

7:55 p.m. 11. Miscellaneous Matters

- Reminder of UGRWCD Holiday Celebration after November 24, 2025, meeting at Ol Miner Steakhouse at 6:30 p.m. (meeting at 5 p.m.)
- Colorado Water Congress - January 28-30, 2026

8:00 p.m. 12. Citizens' Comments

8:02 p.m. 13. Future Meetings

8:04 p.m. 14. Summary of Meeting Action Items

8:10 p.m. 15. Adjournment

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

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AGENDA ITEM 2
Approval of Meeting Minutes

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 22, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) conducted a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, September 22, 2025, 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: Stuart Asay, Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard (via Zoom), John Perusek, Camille Richard, Don Sabrowski, Andy Spann, Brian Stevens, Jeff Writer, and Brooke Zanetell.

Board members absent: Rosemary Carroll

Others present:

Brian Bellew and James Romines, Baron Critical Weather Intelligence
Richard Chappuis, PGS LLC
Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager
John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel
Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Office/Senior Program Manager
Sue Uerling, UGRWCD Administrative Asst./Communications Specialist
Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist
Bailey Friedman, UGRWCD Water Resource Projects Manager
Robert Sabatka, Ag Water Policy Advisor, Colorado Department of Agriculture (via Zoom)

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Stuart Asay was introduced as a new Director, representing Ohio Creek, District 6.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Director Camille Richard moved and Director John Perusek seconded approval of the agenda as circulated. The motion carried.

3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Director Joellen Fonken moved and Director Stuart Asay seconded approval of the consent agenda items. The motion carried.

4. 2024 AUDIT

General Manager Sonja Chavez reviewed the Manager's Discussion & Analysis of the 2024 Audit. No questions were raised about the analysis or the audit.

Director Stuart Asay moved and Director Camille Richard seconded approval of the 2024 Audit. The motion carried.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer John Perusek referred to the Treasurer's Report in the Board packet.

Director Joellen Fonken asked if the District perceives that the increases currently listed for health and dental insurance for 2026 are final or if they could change. General Manager Chavez replied that the figures currently presented are final.

6. GENERAL COUNSEL UPDATE

Public Access Legislation: Counselor John McClow gave an update on the legal review of the public's access to Colorado's rivers and streams. Mr. McClow explained that in 2023 the Colorado Supreme Court ruled against Roger Hill, who sued a landowner after the landowner hurled rocks at him for fishing in a privately owned section of the Arkansas River. Hill argued that the state rivers are public property if they were navigable at statehood. The court contended that there was no legal standing for this argument. Since then, river access advocates have been pushing for new legislation that would clearly spell out the public's rights to use rivers for recreation. Mr. McClow explained that in past legal cases, the court ruled that touching the banks on private property was not considered criminal trespassing, but they left in place that this could be considered civil trespassing.

Counselor McClow shared a presentation by Colorado Farm Bureau about their input on possible legislation. In the presentation, the Farm Bureau stated that riverbanks are not public property, that recreational users could introduce dangerous aquatic nuisance species to rivers and streams, and that property owners should have no liability if a recreationist gets hurt while floating rivers and streams through sections of private property.

Discussion among the Directors ensued with several examples given of good and bad outcomes related to members of the public recreating through private property. The consensus was that if rafters and boaters were respectful of private property when floating through sections of private property, there should be no conflict. Director Don Sabrowski noted that the commercial raft companies in Gunnison, Three Rivers and Scenic River Tours, have done an exemplary job of helping educate the public about respecting property owners' rights and that Wilder's ongoing issues with respect to private property rights continue to affect on-commercial boaters. Director Camille Richard pointed out that there are no commercial raft companies operating in Lake City and that the issue is with non-commercial boaters. All board members agreed that there is a good opportunity for education around these issues. General Manager Chavez offered to share this educational opportunity with the Gunnison River Festival board.

Shoshone Acquisition Negotiations: Counselor McClow reported that the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) hearing regarding the Colorado River District's acquisition of the Shoshone water rights lasted just over 14 hours, with the discussion finally being tabled until their November meeting. The Colorado River District is seeking to acquire the Shoshone water rights and add an instream flow agreement to the acquisition, which would allow a certain amount of water to remain in the river for environmental benefits. Front Range water entities have concerns about this flow agreement. It was noted that the District provided a letter of support for funding of the acquisition but had not taken a formal stand on the project.

7. 2026 DRAFT BUDGET REVIEW

Senior Program Manager Beverly Richards reviewed the latest version of the 2026 draft budget. She highlighted the line items where estimates presented at the last Board meeting have now been updated with actual figures and included new additions since the last version of the draft budget.

8. BASIN WATER SUPPLY REPORT

Senior Program Manager Beverly Richards referred to her memo included in the packet. Since the memo was prepared, conditions have improved slightly thanks to some recent rains. She noted that drought conditions still exist throughout western Colorado but are not as extreme as they were in her August report. David Gochis from Airborne Snow Observatories provided an updated report this week, stating that there was a "bump up" in precipitation and that the soil moisture content is close to normal at present. Ms. Richards said that the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center predicts that the Taylor Reservoir storage on October 31st will be 61,800 acre-feet, which is slightly above the 61,000 acre-feet minimum storage target for a dry year. Based on this, the TLUG representatives determined that releases from Taylor will remain at 225 cfs until October 1st, when flows will be stepped down by 25 cfs increments every 48 hours until reaching the winter flow target of 76 cfs.

Ms. Richards also reported that Lake Powell is now 152.38 feet below the full pool and just 21.62 feet above the critical elevation of 3,525 acre-feet.

This led to some discussion about whether or not there may be DROA releases from Blue Mesa this year. General Manager Chavez reported there will be no DROA release in 2025, but there could be one in 2026 from Flaming Gorge. Director Brian Stevens asked the reasoning behind Flaming Gorge and not Blue Mesa or others? Counselor McClow answered that Flaming Gorge is a much larger reservoir. Ms. Chavez added that it also has fewer federal contracts to meet. Mr. McClow noted that any future DROA releases will be decided on a case by case basis, with the timing and quantity negotiated at that time.

9. PRESENTATION OF GAP WEATHER RADAR OCCULTATION ANALYSIS BY BARON WEATHER

Brian Bellew, James Romine and Richard Chappuis introduced themselves and gave a presentation about Baron Weather's gap radar equipment and analysis of possible locations for a radar site in the Upper Gunnison Basin. These were the major highlights of the presentation:

- Mr. Bellew explained that Baron Weather had installed a gap radar system in LaPlata County and that a similar system would work for Gunnison County. He said that Baron has been in business for 30 years providing radar systems worldwide.
- Baron provided project management, permitting, onsite construction management, the radar system (including the tower/shelter, data dissemination and software, yearly preventative maintenance and 27/7 technical support and a 10-year warranty.
- The presentation included details about data dissemination, including providing a feed to the National Weather Service, National Severe Storm Laboratories, Lynx/Threatnet and the potential to provide web and mobile apps to other agencies or members of the public for a subscription fee if the District chooses.
- Mr. Bellew and Mr. Romine showed their analysis of potential sites in the basin, with the Rose Ridge and VOR sites rising to the top in terms of coverage. It was noted that the VOR site already has power installed so this could be a big cost savings in choosing that location. Mr. Bellew explained that both sites do have a gap area at a lower elevation in the basin but that not much precipitation develops in this area anyway.
- Mr. Bellew and Mr. Romine discussed the quality of going with a C-Band vs. an X-Band transmitter and noted that the typical range of C-Band for reflectivity is 200 km while for a X-Band is 50 km.
- The Baron team reviewed many of the technicalities of the system and explained its capabilities and capacity. It was noted that as the angle of the radar changes how data is captured at lower elevations versus higher elevations. The Baron GEN3 provides Hydrometeor Classification Algorithms, Rain on Radome Attenuation Correction, Beam Blockage Correction (in real time) and Hydrometeor Attenuation Correction during rain or hailstorms.
- The Baron team explained that the cost of the radar can vary widely depending on what system you choose and where it is installed. No estimates of pricing were provided.
- They offered to provide a tour of the radar site in LaPlata County if the Board and staff are interested.

Director Andy Spann asked if Baron has the ability to provide hydrological models for the District from the system. Baron Weather's Chief Scientist for Advanced Meteorological Systems, John McHenry is one of the top in his field and can work with the District to provide hydrological models as requested, they said.

Director Don Sabrowski noted that he is in favor of any additional data that can help the District better manage releases based on weather patterns and snowpack. He asked if engineering will be required to select the site and the reply was "yes."

Director Stuart Asay asked if there is a backup system for the radar if the power goes out. Mr. Romine replied that a diesel generator can be used for backup or that it is possible to provide a direct natural gas line to the site for backup power.

General Manager Chavez thanked the Baron team for coming to the meeting and providing the presentation.

10. GENERAL MANAGER, STAFF AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

General Manager Chavez reminded the Board that the New Board Member Orientation is scheduled for Monday, September 29th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A Zoom link will be provided for remote attendance.

Ms. Chavez also reported that she had received four responses to the RFP for a strategic planning consultant and would be reviewing the applications shortly.

Water Resources Project Manager Report: Bailey Friedman gave an update on projects she has been working on since the last quarter. Highlights included a successful public water education event at Buckel Family Wines, the completion of the first phase of the demonstration garden/xeriscaping, and several conferences she attended. She noted that the ESRI Conference in particular was very helpful to her in providing interactive maps for the DCP dashboard.

Water Quality and Quantity Report: Water Resources Specialist Ari Yamaguchi referred to his memos included in the packet and highlighted sampling for the Ag Return Flow study, the District's involvement in the state's temperature regulations for surface water quality through Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality & Quantity stakeholder workgroup, and he reported on the Upper Gunnison's Water Quality and Quantity annual meeting held earlier in the month.

With respect to water surface temperatures, both Director Camille Richard and Director Brooke Zanetell reported that they had witnessed more algae blooms on rocks in high altitude streams than they recalled seeing the past. General Manager Chavez said that with the low streamflows and the higher temperatures, unfortunately, this is not surprising, as the streamflows have not been high enough or fast enough to scour the stream beds and algae.

Mr. Yamaguchi also reported that the tour of the former Homestake Mine was very informative. Director Don Sabrowski asked if touring the mine had changed his perspective with respect to the letter that the District had provided to the QQ asking that other alternatives be considered. Mr. Yamaguchi replied that while it was insightful he was still of the mindset that it would be helpful for Barrick Company, who is in charge of the mine reclamation, to be more transparent in their consideration of alternatives. He gave the example of Barrick not including alternatives that required working with the USFS through a NEPA process. Having to go through NEPA does not mean that an alternative is not viable. In his research, he determined that the USFS asked for Barrick to narrow down the options before asking them to evaluate all alternatives. Mr. Yamaguchi felt that it was important for Barrick Company to thoroughly consider all possible alternatives.

Wet Meadows Restoration Program Report: Mr. Yamaguchi gave the report for the Wet Meadows Program in the absence of Program Director Amanda Aulenbach.

Mr. Yamaguchi reported that the Wet Meadows crew installed 49 new structures this season. He also reported that Joslyn Hayes, an MS student with the University of Denver, has completed a wet meadows planning prioritization tool that will be very helpful to partners in prioritizing land areas that would benefit from wet meadows structures. Ms. Hayes will be demonstrating the tool for the Board at the October meeting.

In addition to helping with cheat grass spraying, the Wet Meadows staff will be attending the Sustaining Colorado Watershed Conference in Avon, Colorado October 7-9th, and will host a free Landowners Workshop in the District Conference Room on October 3rd at 9:30 a.m. with its partners.

- *Approval of purchasing a heavy-duty field truck:* General Manager Chavez said the District is seeking approval from the Board to trade in the Tacoma and replace it with a heavy-duty field truck for the Wet Meadows program and general field work. Staff have researched alternatives and believe the Tacoma can be traded in for a new ¾-ton pick-up truck for an estimated additional cash outlay of $26,000. She noted that the District is going away from mileage reimbursement and moving toward a daily flat rate reimbursement for vehicle (e.g., trucks, trailers, and UTV) because of the wear-and-tear that occurs.

  Director Brian Steven said a ¾ ton pick-up has much better power for off-road towing and will be much safer for the crew.

Director Brian Stevens moved and Director Camille Richard seconded approval of the purchase of a three-quarter-ton work truck in 2025 at a cost not to exceed $26,000 after trading in the District's Toyota Tacoma. The motion carried.

Drought Resiliency Planning: It was reported that the Upper Gunnison DCP Plan is with the Bureau of Reclamation awaiting their feedback.

Education and Outreach Committee Report: UGRWCD Communications Specialist referred to her memorandum included in the Board packet.

Ms. Uerling also noted that the Education and Outreach Committee met on August 27th to review the proposed Action Plan and draft budget for educational programming. Committee Chair Brooke Zanetell noted that during the meeting, the committee discussed some additional programming, and Ms. Uerling then included estimates for the cost of the additions in the Education and Draft budget included in the packet. Director Zanetell said she would be more comfortable recommending the Action Plan and Draft Budget for the Board's approval after a short meeting with the committee to get their input on the final program budget. Director Zanetell will poll the committee for consensus on a meeting date and time. Approval of the 2026 Education and Outreach Action Plan and Draft budget was therefore tabled until the October Board meeting.

Taylor Local User's Group (TLUG) Report: TLUG Chair Don Sabrowski reported that the TLUG representatives met on September 4th. He noted that thanks to some improvements in content due to recent precipitation, the group was able to recommend keeping releases at 225 cfs through the end of September, which will benefit the commercial raft companies. As of October 1st, releases will be gradually ratcheted down to reach the winter flow rate of 76 cfs. He said that all of the representatives had to concede some of their preferences for releases throughout the season due to the lack of water. He was glad that the final projected storage content for the water year is slightly above the requirement of 60,000 acre-feet. At this time, no other TLUG meetings are planned for 2025.

Scientific Endeavors: Directors were reminded of Dr. Rosemary Carroll's presentation at the Crested Butte Heritage Museum on October 10th at 6 p.m. on "Where Rivers Begin: How Snow, Trees and Rocks Shape Mountain Streamflow." All are invited.

Gunnison Basin Roundtable Report: General Manager Chavez reported that GBRT will be supporting River's Edge in their education program to engage youth and adults in learning about the importance of riverside lands and providing meaningful opportunities for people to steward them into the future.

11. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Whetstone Development: General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that the District has learned that the construction of water infrastructure in the bed of the Slate River associated with the Whetstone Development in Crested Butte has rendered the USGS stream gage (Slate River at Baxtr Gulch) unusable for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, the District was not aware of the potential impacts of the water infrastructure or asked to do an agency review when the project was being developed. It will take years to collect new data to develop a reliable stage discharge relationship at the gage and it will be very expensive. Discussion ensued about the need for the District to be included in notices about proposed developments when they will involve any water infrastructure, wetlands, ditches, streams, rivers, etc. At the direction of the board, General Manager Chavez will write a letter to the county to ask them to include the District in the development planning process and to ask them to pay for pay for getting the new stage discharge relationship developed.

Crested Butte Fire Protection District – New Fire House: General Manager Chavez said she had received a call about the new Crested Butte Fire Protection District constructing a dry hydrant in the Slate River and sediment being deposited in the stream. After speaking with UGRWCD Augmentation Program Manager, Beverly Richards, she learned that the augmentation certificate for indoor and outdoor water use did not include a dry hydrant and that our augmentation program doesn't provide any language related to dry hydrants. The District has since learned that this hydrant will also be used regularly for training, so further action on the augmentation issue will be required.

Sean Caffrey with the fire district and Tom Rozman with the Division of Water Resources, she learned that they had not consulted. Ms. Chavez said the fire district did apply for an

These calls lead to further discussion that the city and county are considering reducing the requirements needed for changes in zoning for new developments. Members of the Board noted that they are worried that this could further complicate issues for the watershed.

12. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Robert Sakata, Agricultural Water Policy Advisor with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, commented that he appreciated the time and effort General Counsel John McClow put in for the Colorado Water Congress hearing on the Shoshone acquisition and that it was very apparent he had read every page of the 4000-page packet.

He also stated that a working group has been assembled and will start holding meetings to discuss the state's funding of water projects under proposed SB2025-040. He provided a link to the task force information. This information can be found here.

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

A list of upcoming meetings was included in the Board packet.

14. SUMMARY OF MEETING ACTION ITEMS

- General Manager Chavez will share the need for more public education about stream access with the Gunnison River Festival Board and the executive director.
- Staff will provide slides presented about stream access to the Board of Directors.
- Staff will share the PowerPoint from the Baron gap radar presentation with the Board of Directors.
- General Manager Chavez will draft a letter to Gunnison County regarding the District's concerns with not being included in notifications of proposed new developments and the

District’s request for Gunnison County to pay for re-establishing the stage discharge relationship for the gage due to impacts from the Whetstone Development.

- Staff will provide information to the Board about the meetings to discuss SB2024-040.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Don Sabrowski adjourned the September 22, 2025 regular Board Meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rebie Hazard, Secretary

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Don Sabrowski, President

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AGENDA ITEM 3

Treasurer's Report

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Director Perusek, Treasurer
Beverly Richards, Office / Senior Program Manager
Sonja Chavez, General Manager

DATE: October 27, 2025

SUBJECT: Treasurer's Report

I. Financial Reporting: Following a discussion with UGRWCD accounting services contractor, Tom Stoeber of Stoeber CPA, executive management will institute a new method of reporting financial information to the Board of Directors. These are as follows:

- The consideration of expenses, monthly budget summary, and bank and bond balances will be pulled from the consent agenda and included under the Treasurer's Report section.
- At each regular meeting, the Treasurer and staff will highlight any information on individual expenses above $5,000 to the Board to enhance transparency about these expenditures.
- The Bank and Bond Balance sheet will also be included under this report which shows a comprehensive view of our current investments and bank balances.

These changes are being made for the purpose of enhancing transparency and to provide board members and the public an opportunity to ask questions about specific expenditures. In addition, per our CPA, standard expenses do not need approval from the board as they were originally approved as part of the budget approval process. It also allows staff the opportunity to seek approval and enhance transparency for items not originally contemplated as part of the budget process.

II. September Financial Information:

Consideration of Expenses: Below are those expenses that were above $5,000 for the month of September.

Payee	Amount	Budget Line Item
Halo Ranch	$15,150.00	Grant Program
Greg Ruffenbach	$6,107.50	Grant Program
Wynn Marten	$6,000.00	Grant Program

Airborne Snow Observatory	$50,043.87	Regional Water Supply
USGS	$12,500.00	WMP – HAB Phase 2
USGS	$10,797.00	Regional Water Supply
Bio-Logic	$9,446.28	Wet Meadows

Monthly Budget Summary: The items can be found in this document.

III. Additional Investment Purchase: Management was notified of a bond that was called on October 8th, 2025, LPL Bond 35 (FHLMC) CUSIP 3134HAV34 for $250,000. A decision was made to take available funds sitting in the money market savings account ($18,040.87) and additional funds from ColoTrust ($26,876.89) to purchase a $300,000 bond earning interest at 4.15%. This bond has a maturity date of October 8, 2030.

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Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Date	Name	Account
AARP Medicare Rx		
09/01/2025	AARP Medicare Rx	74166 · Medical Insurance
Total AARP Medicare Rx		
Airborne Snow Obervatories, Inc.		
09/25/2025	Airborne Snow Obervatories, Inc.	Airborne Snow Observatory Fli...
Total Airborne Snow Obervatories, Inc.		
Alan Wartes Media LLC		
09/30/2025	Alan Wartes Media LLC	Wet Meadows Miscellaneous
09/30/2025	Alan Wartes Media LLC	Advertising Radio & Newspap...
09/30/2025	Alan Wartes Media LLC	80548 · Legal Publication
09/30/2025	Alan Wartes Media LLC	Strategic Planning
Total Alan Wartes Media LLC		
Andy Spann BOD		
09/30/2025	Andy Spann BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees
09/30/2025	Andy Spann BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage
Total Andy Spann BOD		
Anthem		

Date	Name	Account
09/01/2025	Anthem	74166 · Medical Insurance
Total Anthem		
Applegate Group, Inc.		
09/30/2025	Applegate Group, Inc.	81520 · Consulting/Engineering
09/30/2025	Applegate Group, Inc.	CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase...
Total Applegate Group, Inc.		
Atmos Energy		
09/30/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A
09/30/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A
09/30/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A
09/30/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A
Total Atmos Energy		
Bailey Friedman		
09/30/2025	Bailey Friedman	80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.
Total Bailey Friedman		
Beverly Richards		
09/01/2025	Beverly Richards	74166 · Medical Insurance

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Date	Name	Account
Total Beverly Richards		
BIO-Logic Inc		
09/30/2025	BIO-Logic Inc	BLM L24AC00687
Total BIO-Logic Inc		
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies		
09/30/2025	Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	BLM L24AC00687
Total Bird Conservancy of the Rockies		
Brian Stevens		
09/30/2025	Brian Stevens	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees
Total Brian Stevens		
Brooke Zanatell BOD		
09/30/2025	Brooke Zanatell BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees
Total Brooke Zanatell BOD		
Camille Richard BOD		
09/30/2025	Camille Richard BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees
09/30/2025	Camille Richard BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Date	Name	Account
Total Camille Richard BOD		
Capital Business Systems, Inc.		
09/30/2025	Capital Business Systems, Inc.	80541 · Copier Expenses
Total Capital Business Systems, Inc.		
CEBT		
09/01/2025	CEBT	74166 · Medical Insurance
Total CEBT		
Chase - United Credit Card		
09/27/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81258 · Vehicle Expenses - Toy...
09/27/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81257 · Vehicle Expenses - Toy...
09/27/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.
09/27/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81558 · Computer Software
09/27/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc...
09/27/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Wet Meadows Miscellaneous
09/27/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	82530 · Meeting Expenses
09/27/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	82556 · Dues, Memberships&S...
09/27/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81600 · BOD Expenses
09/27/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80513 · Public Outreach
Total Chase - United Credit Card		

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Date	Name	Account
City of Gunnison		
09/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A
09/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A
09/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A
09/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A
Total City of Gunnison		
Crested Butte News		
09/30/2025	Crested Butte News	Wet Meadows Miscellaneous
09/30/2025	Crested Butte News	80548 · Legal Publication
09/30/2025	Crested Butte News	Strategic Planning
Total Crested Butte News		
Crystal Clear Window Washing of Gunnison		
09/30/2025	Crystal Clear Window Washing of Gunnis...	Building Rep/Maint - Unit A
Total Crystal Clear Window Washing of Gunnison		
Don Sabrowski BOD		
09/30/2025	Don Sabrowski BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees
09/30/2025	Don Sabrowski BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage
Total Don Sabrowski BOD		

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Date	Name	Account
ElephantFish, LLC		
09/30/2025	ElephantFish, LLC	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557
Total ElephantFish, LLC		
Friends of Youth and Nature		
09/30/2025	Friends of Youth and Nature	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557
Total Friends of Youth and Nature		
Fullmer's Ace Hardware		
09/30/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc...
09/30/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	Wet Meadows Miscellaneous
09/30/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	BLM L24AC00687
09/30/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	Building Rep/Maint - Unit A
Total Fullmer's Ace Hardware		
GL Computer Service, Inc.		
09/30/2025	GL Computer Service, Inc.	81543 · Computer Repair/IT S...
Total GL Computer Service, Inc.		
Golden Eagle Trash Service		
09/30/2025	Golden Eagle Trash Service	84550 · CAM

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Date	Name	Account
Total Golden Eagle Trash Service		
Greg Ruffennach		
09/30/2025	Greg Ruffennach	85400 · Grant Program
Total Greg Ruffennach		
Gunnison Bank and Trust		
09/09/2025	Gunnison Bank and Trust	80517 · Accounting & Professi...
09/10/2025	Gunnison Bank and Trust	80517 · Accounting & Professi...
Total Gunnison Bank and Trust		
Halo Ranch		
09/30/2025	Halo Ranch	85400 · Grant Program
Total Halo Ranch		
Humana		
09/01/2025	Humana	74166 · Medical Insurance
Total Humana		
Jeff Writer BOD		
09/30/2025	Jeff Writer BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees

Date	Name	Account
09/30/2025	Jeff Writer BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage
Total Jeff Writer BOD		
Joellen Fonken BOD		
09/30/2025	Joellen Fonken BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees
09/30/2025	Joellen Fonken BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage
Total Joellen Fonken BOD		
John McClow		
09/01/2025	John McClow	74166 · Medical Insurance
Total John McClow		
John Perusek BOD		
09/30/2025	John Perusek BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees
Total John Perusek BOD		
Joslyn Hays		
09/30/2025	Joslyn Hays	80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.
Total Joslyn Hays		
KEJJ Radio		

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Date	Name	Account
09/30/2025	KEJJ Radio	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising
Total KEJJ Radio		
LexisNexis		
09/30/2025	LexisNexis	82556 · Dues, Memberships&S...
Total LexisNexis		
Lightspeed Voice		
09/30/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone
09/30/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone
Total Lightspeed Voice		
Luke Bruggeman		
09/30/2025	Luke Bruggeman	Building Rep/Maint - Unit A
Total Luke Bruggeman		
Melinda McCawmedia		
09/30/2025	Melinda McCawmedia	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557
Total Melinda McCawmedia		
New Morning Improvement, LLC		

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Date	Name	Account
09/30/2025	New Morning Improvement, LLC	Office Cleaning
Total New Morning Improvement, LLC		
QuickBooks		
09/03/2025	QuickBooks	81558 · Computer Software
Total QuickBooks		
Rebie Hazard-BOD		
09/30/2025	Rebie Hazard-BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees
Total Rebie Hazard-BOD		
RigNet Inc		
09/30/2025	RigNet Inc	85540 · Cloud Seeding
Total RigNet Inc		
Silver World Publishing		
09/30/2025	Silver World Publishing	80548 · Legal Publication
09/30/2025	Silver World Publishing	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising
Total Silver World Publishing		
Sonja Chavez		

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)

September 2025

Date	Name	Account
09/30/2025	Sonja Chavez	80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.
Total Sonja Chavez		
Strategic by Nature		
09/30/2025	Strategic by Nature	85554 · USBR Drought Conting...
Total Strategic by Nature		
Stuart Asay - BOD		
09/30/2025	Stuart Asay - BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees
09/30/2025	Stuart Asay - BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage
Total Stuart Asay - BOD		
Summit Landscapes LLC		
09/30/2025	Summit Landscapes LLC	Xeriscaping
Total Summit Landscapes LLC		
Sunshine Creatives		
09/30/2025	Sunshine Creatives	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557
Total Sunshine Creatives		
The Paper Clip		

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Date	Name	Account
09/30/2025	The Paper Clip	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc...
09/30/2025	The Paper Clip	82530 · Meeting Expenses
Total The Paper Clip		
Thomas N Stoeber, CPA		
09/30/2025	Thomas N Stoeber, CPA	80517 · Accounting & Professi...
Total Thomas N Stoeber, CPA		
U.S. Geological Survey		
09/30/2025	U.S. Geological Survey	HAB Phase 2 Expense
09/30/2025	U.S. Geological Survey	H20 Budget & Return Flow Stu...
Total U.S. Geological Survey		
Visionary Broadband		
09/30/2025	Visionary Broadband	81556 · Internet
Total Visionary Broadband		
Wilson Water Group		
09/30/2025	Wilson Water Group	85554 · USBR Drought Conting...
09/30/2025	Wilson Water Group	81520 · Consulting/Engineering

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Date	Name	Account
Total Wilson Water Group		
Wynn Martens		
09/30/2025	Wynn Martens	85400 · Grant Program
Total Wynn Martens		
TOTAL		

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Amount
104.70
104.70
50,043.87
50,043.87
999.64
522.75
17.60
88.00
1,627.99
100.00
9.80
109.80

Amount
389.14
389.14
527.12
2,214.23
2,741.35
59.48
80.48
16.07
16.97
173.00
44.73
44.73
185.00

Amount
185.00
9,446.28
9,446.28
4,093.88
4,093.88
100.00
100.00
100.00
100.00
100.00
78.40

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Amount
178.40
274.83
274.83
5,221.10
5,221.10
31.57
151.11
352.14
238.70
425.99
67.05
408.94
590.72
170.00
66.17
2,502.39

Amount
89.84
255.58
197.81
46.97
590.20
836.10
11.04
53.50
900.64
430.00
430.00
100.00
44.80
144.80

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Amount
510.00
510.00
1,500.00
1,500.00
32.98
19.18
560.79
16.99
629.94
750.00
750.00
75.09

Amount
75.09
6,107.50
6,107.50
5.00
25.00
30.00
15,150.00
15,150.00
91.00
91.00
100.00

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Amount
84.00
184.00
100.00
7.00
107.00
185.00
185.00
100.00
100.00
274.40
274.40

Amount
250.00
250.00
720.70
720.70
310.10
1.66
311.76
350.00
350.00
82.51
82.51

Amount
630.00
630.00
92.00
92.00
100.00
100.00
38.45
38.45
80.00
17.60
97.60

Amount
541.77
541.77
3,470.00
3,470.00
100.00
12.60
112.60
2,095.00
2,095.00
1,252.00
1,252.00

Amount
103.72
36.50
140.22
3,785.00
3,785.00
12,500.00
10,797.00
23,297.00
126.96
126.96
212.50
1,260.00

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
September 2025

Amount
1,472.50
6,000.00
6,000.00
150,062.10

Return to Treasurer's Report

Return to Agenda

Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy Distric
Monthly Budget Summary 2025

	Sep 25	YTD 2025	2025 Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Asp Water Sales	172.52	28,491.66	25,000.00	113.97%
Rent Income	5,325.00	29,025.00	43,500.00	66.72%
Cloud Seeding Income	0.00	100,750.00	124,500.00	80.92%
Interest Income	13,699.41	163,340.24	50,000.00	326.68%
Property Tax Income	24,305.95	2,164,144.53	2,204,862.00	98.15%
Reimbursed Exp Income	0.00	47,973.83	42,000.00	114.22%
Watershed Mgmt Income	15,794.18	119,968.37	291,291.00	41.19%
Wet Meadows Income	0.00	175,212.78	385,422.00	45.46%
WQ Monitoring Inc	0.00	35,328.00	46,319.00	76.27%
Vehicle Income	0.00	1,073.80	10,000.00	10.74%
Additional Contribution Reserve	0.00	0.00	457,435.00	0.0%
Miscellaneous Income	3,486.00	5,761.00		
Total Income	62,783.06	2,871,069.21	3,680,329.00	78.01%
Expense				
Op X				
Admin.Travel & Exp.	1,213.04	15,877.38	35,000.00	45.36%
Audit Expense	0.00	7,950.00	10,000.00	79.5%
Accounting & Professional Fees	3,815.00	32,144.18	45,000.00	71.43%
BOD Expenses	-405.00	5,980.10	15,000.00	39.87%
BOD Mileage	236.60	1,776.60	5,500.00	32.3%
BOD Mtg Fees	1,000.00	7,000.00	13,360.00	52.4%
Bonding and Insurance	0.00	25,903.00	15,500.00	167.12%
Building Rep/Maint	796.99	9,926.25	10,000.00	99.26%
CAM	75.09	4,597.40	7,500.00	61.3%
Computer Exp	1,207.66	30,928.02	32,200.00	96.05%
Copier Expenses	274.83	2,548.88	7,000.00	36.41%
County Treasurers' Fees	488.33	64,225.66	75,000.00	85.63%
Spencer Bldg Reserve Contrib	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	100.0%
Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	1,311.42	14,208.02	17,260.00	82.32%
Legal Publication	108.64	3,455.34	5,000.00	69.11%
Manager's Discretionary	0.00	11,545.85	25,000.00	46.18%
Meeting Expenses	445.44	2,680.31	5,000.00	53.61%
Office Cleaning	630.00	6,187.50	6,200.00	99.8%
Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	562.69	14,896.38	10,000.00	148.96%
Payroll Exp	86,676.65	769,368.00	1,005,511.00	76.52%
Postage	0.00	1,638.10	1,500.00	109.21%
Telephone	311.76	6,574.57	9,000.00	73.05%
Utilities	763.20	7,227.29	6,000.00	120.46%
Vehicle Expense	182.68	3,929.37	3,500.00	112.27%
Total Op X	99,695.02	1,060,568.20	1,375,031.00	77.13%
Non-Op X				
Aquatice Nuisance Species	0.00	3,595.00	20,000.00	17.98%
Asp Subordination Report	0.00	5,604.40	6,000.00	93.41%
Aspinall Contract Costs	0.00	21,578.53	21,000.00	102.76%
Gunnison County Hazardous Waste	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Consulting/Engineering	1,787.12	15,950.66	50,000.00	31.9%
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	0.00	17,000.00	17,000.00	100.0%
Donation Dust on Snowpack	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	100.0%
Drought Contingency Cont	0.00	13,744.08	30,000.00	45.81%
Grant Program	27,257.50	219,214.98	555,000.00	39.5%
Gunnison River Festival	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	100.0%

Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy Distric
Monthly Budget Summary 2025

Endanger Fish Recovery Program	0.00	3,750.00	3,750.00	100.0%
Lake Fork Conservancy	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
LSC Expenses	0.00	13,464.00	13,464.00	100.0%
Public Outreach	856.52	27,012.56	41,270.00	65.45%
Regional Water Supply Imp. Exp.	60,879.32	282,342.97	488,375.00	57.81%
Strategic Planning	141.50	141.50	30,000.00	0.47%
Taylor Park Projects Exp	0.00	7,436.00	7,500.00	99.15%
Watershed Mgmt X	21,741.24	149,329.69	312,533.00	47.78%
Wet Meadow X	16,022.92	66,580.37	395,422.00	16.84%
WQ Monitoring	0.00	92,950.00	207,484.00	44.8%
Total Non-Op X	128,686.12	957,194.74	2,226,298.00	43.0%
87000 · Capital Outlay Expense				
Xeriscaping	2,095.00	15,427.36	25,000.00	61.71%
Spencer Unit A Reno	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.0%
Spencer Unit C Reno	0.00	2,391.14	10,000.00	23.91%
Capital Outlay Expense	2,095.00	17,818.50	55,000.00	32.4%
Contingency	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	0.0%
Total Expense	230,476.14	2,035,581.44	3,680,329.00	55.31%
Net Ordinary Income	-167,693.08	835,487.77	0.00	
Net Income	-167,693.08	835,487.77	0.00	

Return to Agenda

UGRWCD	Instrument	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
Account Name: LPL Bonds	Type	9/30/2025	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	BOND	246,552.00	250,000.00	0.875%	3/17/2026	3/17/2025
LPL Bond 24 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130AMDY5	BOND	491,101.00	500,000.00	1.000%	5/20/2026	2/20/2025
LPL Bond 26 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130APBE4	BOND	155,711.36	160,000.00	1.000%	9/30/2026	3/30/2025
LPL Bond 32 (FAMC) CUSIP 31424WH47	BOND	500,249.50	500,000.00	4.280%	7/8/2027	1/8/2026
LPL Bond 33 (FNMA) CUSIP 3136GALS6	BOND	398,532.80	400,000.00	4.250%	8/6/2030	2/6/2026
LPL Bond 34 (FAMC) CUSIP 3142WN99	BOND	398,713.60	400,000.00	4.040%	8/12/2030	8/12/2027
LPL Bond 35 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130B7X90	Bond	298,658.10	300,000.00	4.150%	10/8/2030	10/8/2026
LPL BOND SUBTOTAL:		**$ 2,489,518.36**	**$ 2,510,000.00**	**2.799%**		
Account Name: LPL Certificates of Deposit						
LPL 31 Morgan Stanley Bank CD CUSIP 61690D4C9	CD	221,375.22	220,000.00	4.050%	5/7/2027	
LPL 32 Morgan Stankey PVT Bank CD CUSIP 61776NSJ3	CD	248,693.86	245,000.00	4.150%	5/22/2028	
LPL 33 Toyota Financial Savings Bank CD CUSIP 89235MSK8	CD	348,387.61	245,000.00	4.100%	5/22/2028	
LPL CD SUBTOTAL:		***$ 818,456.69***	***$ 710,000.00***	**4.100%**		
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	(26,876.89)	-	1.000%	N/A	
LPL MM SUBTOTAL:		**$ (26,876.89)**				

Account Name	INSTRUMENT TYPE	Balance 9/30/2025	Cost Basis	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Notes
Community Banks of Colo. Lake City CD 7668	CD	109,228.30	105,015.89	4.01%	11/20/2026	*Updated on an Annual Basis
10520 Gunnison Bank & Trust CD 6637	CD	219,894.70	200,000.00	4.00%	2/26/2030	*Updated on an Annual Basis
10540 Gunnison Bank & Trust MM - Spencer Building Acct. 3589	CHKG	47,780.55		0.50%		
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8756	CHKG	96,980.45				
				Average Mo. Yield		
COLOTRUST PLUS 8001	COLO.	2,070,233.18		4.37%	N/A	
COLOTRUST PLUS UGRWCD EHOP 8003	COLO.	109,703.23		4.37%	N/A	
COLOTRUST PLUS SPENCER BUILDING 8005	COLO.	82,116.28		4.37%		
COLOTRUST PRIME 4001	COLO.	6,523.91		4.23%	N/A	
10200 Petty Cash	PETTY	80.00		N/A	N/A	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK & COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:		**$ 2,742,540.60**				
TOTAL UGRWCD		**$ 6,023,638.76**				

UGRWAE Account Name	INSTRUMENT TYPE	Balance 9/30/2025	Cost Basis	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Date Callable
LPL Bond CUSIP 3136GAAY5 (FNMA)	Bond	300,314.70	300,000.00	5.00%	2/21/2030	11/21/2025
LPL Bond CUSIP 31424WK43 (FAMC)	Bond	300,627.00	300,000.00	4.25%	7/16/2030	7/16/2027
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8764	CHKG	22,252.27				
COLOTRUST PLUS 8002	COLO.	1,554,875.12		4.37%	N/A	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK & COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:		**$ 2,178,069.09**				
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	23,002.42	-	0.250%	N/A	
LPL MM SUBTOTAL:		**$ 23,002.42**				
TOTAL UGRWAE		**$ 2,201,071.51**				

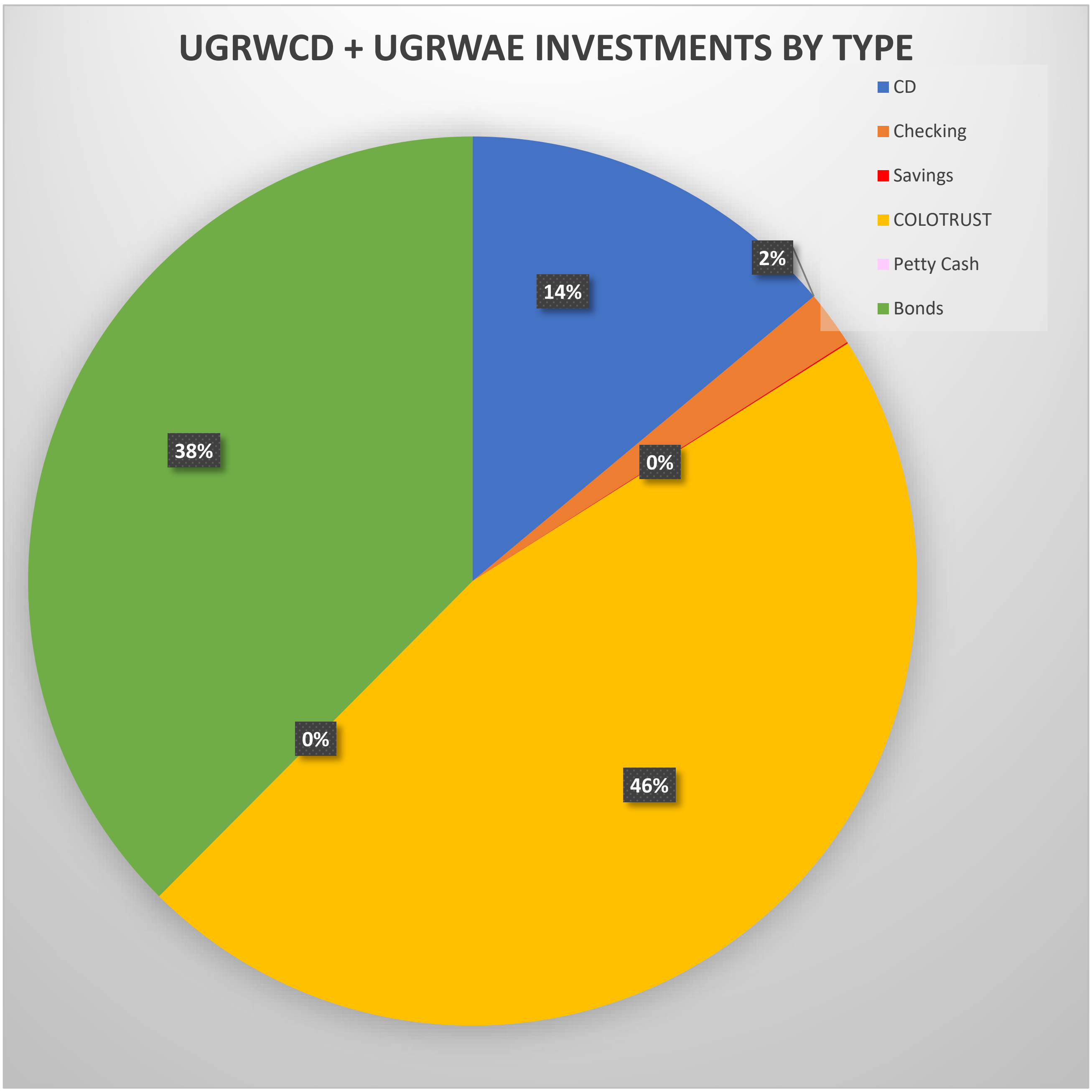
TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE	**$ 8,224,710.27**

Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE by Bank		
LPL Financial	$ 3,905,042.28	47%
Community Banks of Colo.	109,228.30	1%
Gunnison Bank & Trust	386,907.97	5%
COLOTRUST	3,823,451.72	46%
Petty Cash	80.00	0%
TOTAL ALL SOURCES	**$ 8,224,710.27**	**100%**

Total UGRWCD & UGRWAE by Investment Type		
CD	14%	1,147,579.69
Checking	2%	167,013.27
Savings	0%	(3,874.47)
COLOTRUST	46%	3,823,451.72
Petty Cash	0%	80.00
Bonds	38%	$ 3,090,460.06
Total	**100%**	**$ 8,224,710.27**

UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	14%	$	1,147,579.69
Checking	2%	$	167,013.27
Savings	0%	$	(3,874.47)
COLOTRUST	46%	$	3,823,451.72
Petty Cash	0%	$	80.00
Bonds	38%	$	3,090,460.06
Total	**100%**	**$**	**8,224,710.27**



AGENDA ITEM 4

2026 Budget Work Session

Return to Agenda

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors

FROM: Beverly Richards, Office Manager
Sonja Chavez, General Manager

DATE: October 27, 2025

SUBJECT: 2026 Budget Draft

A revised draft of the 2026 budget for discussion can be accessed utilizing the link HERE. Below is a summary of draft budget changes that have been made since the September 2025 meeting. Changes include:

- Line 6 – Regional Water Supply Income – Included a $5,000 increase in income from CWCB for the 2025-26 Cloudseeding Program. These funds will go toward the installation of the third remote generator in Ohio Creek. Changes to this line item also included proposed funding from potential partner sources for the 2026 ASO Program. Funds from the CWCB for the Ag Return Flow Study were also included as UGRWCD is now under contract for this grant.
- Line 7 – Watershed Implementation Outside Grants Income – Increased the amount of the line item to include $6,000 for the CFP grant for the Sargent's Ditch Project. This line item also assists in our ability to add and then track other outside grants that come into the District during the fiscal year.
- Line 8 – Watershed Management Income – Includes actual remaining amounts associated with the WMP CWCB funds; CWCP Watershed Restoration Grant funds; and CFP HAB Study Phase 2 funds.
- Line 9 – Wet Meadows Income – This is an additional refinement of this line item based upon anticipated income to be received in 2026 for the Wet Meadows Program.
- Line 17 – BOD Meeting Fees – Increased this item to include a total of the maximum allowable amount of $2,400 per board member. This amount could cover additional fees

to be paid for committee meeting or conference attendance if the Board chooses to implement a revised policy.

- Line 21 – Computer Expenses – Line item was increased to include additional funds for IT Support. We are currently in the process of evaluating alternative IT support options.
- Line 25 – Dues and Subscriptions – Line item was increased by $350 to include the membership fee for the CWC Federal Affairs Committee.
- Line 31 – Payroll Expenses – The revised amount in this line item includes preliminary salary amounts for 2026 and updated estimate of medical insurance premiums.
- Line 32 – Postage – Line item was increased based on year to date amounts for 2025.
- Line 34 – Utilities – Line item was increased based on year to date amounts for 2025.
- Line 35 – Vehicle Expenses – The revised amount for the line item includes the actual not to exceed amount of $26,000 approved by the Board of Directors to trade in the Tacoma and purchase a three quarter ton truck plus annual maintenance expenses for two vehicles.
- Line 36 – Aquatic Nuisance Species – This item was increased to $20,000 due to the confirmation of the existence of Zebra Mussels in the Colorado River.
- Line 43 – District Grant Program – This item covers the proposed funding amount of $300,000 for the 2026 program and outstanding grants from the 2025 program. We anticipate all outstanding 2023 and 2024 grants to close in 2025.
- Line 49 – Public Education and Outreach – This item was revised to include additional expenses discussed by the Public Education and Outreach Committee.
- Line 50 – Regional Water Supply Improvement – This amount increased as there was a $5,000 increase in the Cloudseeding Program expense which will be reimbursed to UGRWCD for the 2025-2026 program related to the Ohio Creek (third) cloudseeding generator and a refined number for anticipated expenses for the AG Return Flow Study. UGRWCD also received an estimate from ASO, Inc. for the 2026 Airborne Snow Measurement Program.
- Line 51 – Strategic Planning – The consultant for the Strategic Planning process has been selected and the amount in this line item was adjusted based on their quote. Additional funds were included to cover travel expenses, which were not included in the original budget estimate.

- Line 53 – Watershed Implementation Outside Grants Expenses – Includes $6,000 for the CFP grant for the Sargent’s Ditch Project.
- Line 54 – Watershed Management Expense – Includes actual remaining amounts for WMP CWCB funds; CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant funds; CFP HAB Study Phase 2 funds.
- Line 55 – Wet Meadows Expense - This is an additional refinement of this line item based upon anticipated expenses to be incurred in 2026 for the Wet Meadows Program.
- Line 56 – Water Quality Monitoring Expenses – Included an estimate for additional proposed short-term reconnaissance monitoring work to be performed as part of the 2026 Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Program downstream of Pitkin. We hope to have a refined estimate when the federal government opens again.
- Line 57 – Capital Outlay Expense – This item includes a refined estimate of expenses associated with the Unit A deck addition based upon a quote from Kowal Construction and the second phase of the Xeriscaping project.

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

General Fund Budget January 1 - December 31, 2026-V4

Return to Memo

		2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	
	REVENUE				
1	Aspinall Water Contract Sales	$ 26,662	$ 25,000	$ 27,000	
2	Building Rental Income	$ 19,985	$ 43,500	$ 40,000	
3	Interest on Investments (includes banks & bonds)	$ 127,343	$ 50,000	$ 110,000	
4	Property Tax (includes specific ownership & interest & penalties)	$ 2,320,130	$ 2,204,862	$ 2,343,029	
5	Reimbursed Income	$ 34,260	$ 42,000	$ 45,500	
6	Regional Water Supply Income	$ -	$ -	$ 338,546	Increase in CS, ASO from CRWCD
7	Watershed Implementation Outside Grants Income	$ -	$ -	$ 116,800	Included Sargent CFP Project
8	Watershed Management Income	$ 212,029	$ 291,291	$ 105,921	Actual Amounts Remaining
9	Wet Meadows Income	$ 200,088	$ 385,422	$ 329,187	Revised Amount
10	Water Quality Monitoring Income	$ 42,393	$ 46,319	$ 36,697	
11	Additional Contribution from Reserve Fund	$ -	$ 457,435	$ 620,044	How much under Expenses
	TOTAL REVENUES	**$ 2,982,891**	**3,545,829**	**$ 4,112,724**	
	EXPENDITURES				
	Operating Expenses				
12	Admin Travel and Expenses	$ 24,404	$ 35,000	$ 36,750	
13	Audit	$ 6,500	$ 10,000	$ 25,000	
14	Accounting Services	$ 40,678	$ 45,000	$ 48,500	
15	BOD Expenses	$ 10,623	$ 15,000	$ 15,750	
16	BOD Mileage	$ 2,930	$ 5,500	$ 5,775	
17	BOD Mtg Fees	$ 11,700	$ 13,360	$ 26,400	$2,400 max per Board Member
18	Bonding and Insurance	$ 14,567	$ 15,500	$ 30,000	
19	Building Rep/Maintenance	$ 6,637	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	
20	CAM	$ 6,705	$ 7,500	$ 7,500	
21	Computer Expenses	$ 17,043	$ 32,200	$ 41,400	Increased IT Support
22	Copier Expenses	$ 3,985	$ 7,000	$ 7,000	
23	County Treasurers' Fees	$ 66,760	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	
24	Spencer Avenue Business Park Annual Buidling Reserve Contribution	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	
25	Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions	$ 14,150	$ 17,260	$ 18,350	Added Federal Affairs
26	Legal Publications	$ 4,492	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	
27	Manager's Discretionary Budget	$ 10,405	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	
28	Meeting Expenses	$ 4,076	$ 5,000	$ 5,000	
29	Office Cleaning	$ 8,078	$ 6,200	$ 8,000	
30	Office Supplies & Expenses	$ 12,982	$ 10,000	$ 12,000	
31	Payroll Exp	$ 815,670	$ 1,005,511	$ 1,140,000	Actual Proposed Rounded Up
32	Postage	$ 987	$ 1,500	$ 2,000	Increased Based on Actual YTD
33	Telephone	$ 9,163	$ 9,000	$ 10,000	
34	Utilities	$ 9,717	$ 6,000	$ 10,000	Increased Based on Actual YTD
35	Vehicle Expenses	$ 2,769	$ 3,500	$ 29,500	Proposed New Vehicle plus maint c
	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	**$ 1,115,020**	**$ 1,375,031**	**$ 1,603,925**	
	Non-Operating Expenses				
36	Aquatic Nuisance Species	$ -	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	Increased to $20K due to Zebra Mu
37	Asp Subordination Report	$ 6,309	$ 6,000	$ 7,500	
38	Aspinall Contracts	$ 18,914	$ 21,000	$ 24,000	
39	Gunnison County Hazardous Waste	$ -	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	
40	Consulting/Engineering	$ 19,913	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	
41	Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	$ 10,000	$ 17,000	$ 17,000	
42	Colorado Dust on Snow	$ 3,500	$ 3,500	$ 3,500	
43	District Grant Program	$ 200,708	$ 555,000	$ 496,420	Includes only 2025 Outstanding
44	Gunnison Conservation District	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	
45	Gunnison River Festival	$ 11,000	$ 12,000	$ 13,000	
46	Endangered Fish Recovery Program	$ 3,750	$ 3,750	$ 3,750	
47	Lake Fork Conservancy	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	
48	Lake San Cristobal Expenses	$ 13,972	$ 13,464	$ 13,464	
49	Public Outreach and Education	$ 46,218	$ 41,270	$ 70,430	Proposed actual
50	Regional Water Supply Improvement	$ 397,273	$ 488,375	$ 797,127	ASO and CWCB Funding included
51	Strategic Planning	$ -	$ 30,000	$ 61,500	From RFP Responses + Travel
52	Taylor Park Project Expense	$ 7,436	$ 7,500	$ 8,200	
53	Watershed Implementation Outside Grants Expense	$ -	$ -	$ 116,800	Includes Sargents Project
54	Watershed Management Expense	$ 433,354	$ 312,533	$ 105,921	Actual Amounts Remaining
55	Wet Meadows Expense	$ 98,091	$ 395,422	$ 339,187	Revised Amounts
56	Water Quality Monitoring	$ 190,548	$ 207,484	$ 250,000	Included additional proposed work
	TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES	**$ 1,470,988**	**$ 2,206,298**	**$ 2,419,799**	
57	Capital Outlay Expense	$ 181,803	$ 55,000	$ 65,000	Based on Quote from Kowal
58	Contingency	$ -	$ 24,000	$ 24,000	same
	TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 2,767,810**	**$ 3,660,329**	**$ 4,112,724**	
	REVENUES UNDER/(OVER) EXPENDITURES	**$ (846,300)**	**$ -**	**$ -**	

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
2026 BUDGET MESSAGE_V1

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-$70 per acre-foot of water actually sold to third parties. The revenue figures shown also include an additional $20 per contract to cover the costs of administering this service.

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

Budget Line 3. Interest Income. This line item includes investment income from District Certificates of Deposit (CD's), Money Markets, and Bonds.

Budget Line 4. Property Tax Income. Property tax revenues in 2026 are expected to be approximately $2.34 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 2025. This line item also includes specific ownership tax and interest and penalties on taxes.

Budget Line 5. Reimbursed Expenses Income: This line item accounts for income UGRWCD receives from the water activity enterprise as a result of reimbursements from the water activity enterprises for expenses paid by the District. These include quarterly cost share from UGRWAE and annual cost share from LSCWAE.

Budget Line 6. Regional Water Supply Income. This budget item reflects various sources of outside income the District is receiving in support of regional water supply activities. In 2026, these include:

6a. 2025-2026 Cloudseeding Program Cost-Share
6b. Airborne Snow Flight Cost-Share
6c. Ag Return Flow Study Grant Income (CWCB 2026-2231)

Budget Line 7. Watershed Implementation Outside Grants Income. This line item reflects various outside sources of grant funding the District is managing in support of various watershed implementation projects occurring in 2026. These include:

7a. CFP 2025-193 Sargents Ditch Project
7b. GBRT CWCB PEPO 2025-2026
7c. CFP 2024-81 UG Bundled Ag Projects

Budget Line 8. Watershed Management Income. This budget line item reflects funding associated with the watershed management planning. These funds associated with this line include funding from CWCB and CFP and project will be completed in 2026. This line item will go away when this work is completed and Budget Line Item 7 above will be used for outside grant income tracking. The funds for 2026 include:

8a. CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase III)
8b. CWCB 2022-2085 (Watershed Restoration Grant)
8c. HAB Study Phase 2 – CFP 2024-82

Budget Line 9. Wet Meadows Program Income: This line item reflects funding the District receives from various entities, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), America the Beautiful (AtBC), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in support of Wet Meadows Program activities. In 2026, these include:

9a. FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem
9b. USFS PA 2022
9c. AtBC #2024-3842
9d. BLM L24C00687
9e. TNC-02_2025_UGRWCD

Budget Line 10. Water Quality Monitoring Program. Gunnison County, the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise, and the Skyland Metropolitan/East River Sanitation Districts are participants in the basin wide water quality monitoring program. The District contracts directly with USGS for the services, and, in turn, the entities reimburse the District for their portions of the funding agreement in a pass-through arrangement. Pass-through funding from Gunnison County, the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise, and Skyland Metropolitan/East River Sanitation Districts is shown as income.

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 2026 are estimated to be $4,112,724.

OPERATING EXPENSES

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

Budget Line 13. Audit. Estimated expenses in support of the 2025 annual audit of financial statements.

Budget Line 14. Accounting Services. Funds for professional accounting and bookkeeping services from Thomas N. Stoeber, P.C. in 2026.

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, and meals while attending conferences or traveling on board business.

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 annual IRS published rates.

Budget Line 17. Board of Directors Meeting Fees. This line item covers stipends for board member for regular or special meetings including committee meetings and conference attendance.

Budget Line 18. Bonding & Insurance. Covers property, auto, and 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, and all part-time and full time staff and seasonal employees. 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, landscaping maintenance, and trash removal.

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

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

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 Building Annual Reserve Contribution. This line item covers the annual contribution to the Spencer Avenue Building Reserve 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 Organizational Membership
25b. Colorado Bar Association
25c. Northwest Colorado Council of Government
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 (e.g., 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 sponsorships, purchase of District shirts for staff or board members, etc.

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

Budget Line 29. Office Cleaning. This line item covers 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. 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 (medical, dental, vision, short-term disability, long-term disability and a basic life insurance policy of $20,000). It 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 Specialist, Administrative /Communications Support Specialist, Seasonal Technicians and Water Resources Fellow.

31e. Staff Development. This budget line item supports staff professional development, professional association dues, etc.

31f. Workers Compensation Insurance. Covers premiums for the workers' compensation insurance policy.

31g. Paid Time Cash Out. Covers expenses associated with the District's paid time off cash out program. This program allows employees to exchange a portion of their unused paid time off for cash or as a deposit into the employee's 401(a) pension account or 457(b) plan, or a deposit to employee's Roth IRA plan.

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

Budget Line 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 Unit A and B. Unit C expenses are paid for by lessee.

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. For 2026, this line item also includes expenses associated with the replacement of the Tacoma with a heavier duty field vehicle.

Total Operating Expenses. **Total Operating Expenses for the District in 2026 are expected to be $1,603,925.**

NON-OPERATING EXPENSES

Budget Line 36. Aquatic Nuisance Species. This line item provides funds to support potential projects or activities in the Upper Gunnison Basin that reduce the possibility of introduction of aquatic nuisance species into local ponds, streams, lakes, and reservoirs.

Budget Line 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 in 2026.

Budget Line 39. Gunnison County Hazardous Waste Clean-up. This line item covers support for the Gunnison County annual hazardous waste clean-up which is important to local water quality efforts.

Budget Line 40. Consulting & Engineering. This line item supports various consulting fees related to management of water works, water rights engineering, agricultural engineering pre-feasibility studies, etc.

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 annual water supply forecast modeling, avalanche predictions, flood forecasting, etc.

Budget Line 43. District Grant Program. This line item supports the District's Annual 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 incomplete projects from prior years' grant cycles.

Budget Line 44. Gunnison Conservation District. This line item supports an annual funding contribution agreement with the Gunnison Conservation District for water resources related education and outreach.

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.

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, and water trailer maintenance. For 2026 this will also include funding in support of the redesign of the District's website.
49c. School and Educational Programs. This item provides funding for on-going activities such as swimming lessons, water book distribution, RMBL science workshops and 8th Grade Taylor Challenge.

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

50a. Cloudseeding.
50b. Taylor River Modeling
50c. Ag Return Flow Study – District Cash
50d. Ag Return Flow Study – CWCB 2026-2231
50e. Airborne Snow Flights

Budget Line 51. Strategic Planning. This budget line item will cover expenses associated with board's strategic planning efforts in 2026.

Budget Line 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 Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the UVWUA, the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, and the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Budget Line 53: Watershed Implementation Outside Grants. This item reflects expenses associated with the implementation of various water resource projects funded by outside grant resources in 2026 including:

53a. CFP 2025-193 Sargents Ditch Project
53b. GBRT CWCB PEPO 2025-2026
53c. CFP 2024-81 Upper Gunnison Bundled Ag Projects

Budget Line 54: 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. This expense line item will eventually go away when the identified funds below are expended and staff will be using Budget Line Item 53 above to track expenses w/outside grants. 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 – CFP 20214-82
53c. CWCB 2022-2085 (Water Restoration Grant)

Budget Line 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 for 2026 are listed below:

54a. FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem
54b. USFS PA 2022
54c. AtBC #2024-3842
54d. BLM L24C00687
54e. TNC 02_2025_UGRWCD
54f. Wet Meadows Miscellaneous $10k

Budget Line 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 10) and as such are included as both income and expenditures. Some 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 2026 are expected to be $2,359,799.

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

56a. Spencer Unit A Renovation. This line item covers expenses associated with the Unit A outside deck.

56b. Xeriscaping Project. This line item covers expenses associated with Phase 2 of the Xeriscaping Project for the Spencer Avenue Building complex.

Budget Line Item 57. Contingency. This line item allows for additional expenses which may be incurred in 2026, 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 $4,112,724.

RETURN TO AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 5

General Counsel Update

Return to Agenda

~~4.1.~~

POLICY REGARDING BOARD COMMITTEES

Adopted March 22, 2021
Updated June 2024
Updated September 18, 2025

The Board of Directors, by motion adopted by a majority of the entire Board, may periodically designate committees from among its members as it deems appropriate. Each committee comprises no more than five Board members and designated staff, with such power and authority as allowed by law, as specified in the motion. Committees serve at the pleasure of the Board. Unless explicitly granted authority by the Board, committees cannot take formal action on behalf of the District but instead make recommendations on actions and policies for the Board's consideration. The recommendations are made in the form of a motion by a member of the committee, which does not require a second. (UGRWCD Bylaws, Article I, Section 6, May 22, 2024). Except for the Finance Committee, committee members select their own chair.

Committees are ~~authorized~~ created to gather information, explore options, and report to the full Board. They shall regularly update the Board on their activities and progress, ~~making~~ and may make recommendations for consideration at any regular or special meeting. ~~When a committee takes action, draft minutes of that meeting will be distributed to the full Board with the minutes of the next regular Board meeting. The Committee will approve these minutes at the first regular Board meeting following the committee's action.~~

Except for the Legislative Committee, notice of all meetings of committees of the Board shall be posted in the designated public place within the District boundaries at least forty-eight hours before the meeting. Notice of all committee meetings shall also be given to the Board of Directors at least forty-eight hours before the meeting (UGRWCD Bylaws, Article II, Section 5, May 22, 2024). Any Director may attend committee meetings, but only appointed committee members may vote on recommendations. Attendance at committee meetings remotely is governed by the Board's policy on electronic participation. Minutes of committee meetings must be taken and retained for public inspection.

Committees may request assistance from District staff, through the General Manager, to gather information, refine recommendations, and present information to the full Board. They must notify the Board when significant staff time is required for any requested task. The Board will approve such requests, including both staff time and financial resources, as it determines to be required.

Committees in need of professional services from the District's contract engineers or from other outside consultants shall consult with the General Manager and request approval of the Board for the purpose and cost of such assistance.

The Board will reauthorize committees at its Annual Meeting each June. As of the June 2025 Annual Meeting, the District has the following standing committees established for the purposes outlined below.

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Return to Agenda

AGENDA ITEM 6

General Manager's Update

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Sonja Chavez, General Manager

DATE: October 27, 2025

SUBJECT: General Manager, Staff & Committee Updates

I. General Manager's Update

A. Strategic Planning Consultant

The District received four responses to our request for proposal for a strategic planning consultant team. Executive management reviewed all proposals and the Civic Consulting Collaborative (CCC) project team lead by Jacob Bornstein was ultimately selected.

CCC has a diverse team with significant experience working with water users across the state including west slope water users and water management entities. A brief summary of their team members and their experience is provided HERE. Staff will work with CCC over the next couple of months to come up with a refined scope of work and budget. As a reminder, the strategic planning process will commence in 2026.

B. Website Redesign

Staff is working with Savannah Nelson of Sunshine Creatives on a website re-design. That work will get underway in 2025 and will be funded in part by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Watershed Management Plan purchase order Task 1 (Outreach and Education). The goal is to streamline and simplify the navigation, make the webpage less cluttered and more visually appealing, easier to update, and make information, including information from the WMP project, easier to find. Staff will also be incorporating a protected Director's Login where Directors will be going in the future to obtain their Board packets.

II. Water Resources Project Updates

Please see memoranda provided by Water Resources Project Manager, Bailey Friedman.

A. Upper Gunnison Basin Geofluvial Summary Report & Story Map

Recommendation for Board Action: Approve the final Geofluvial Assessment Report and Story Map for public distribution and viewing.

B. Phase 1: UGRWCD Xeriscape Closeout. Informational report only.

III. Water Quality / Quantity Program

Please see memorandum provided by Water Resources Specialist, Ari Yamaguchi and Water Resources Project Manager, Bailey Friedman which updates the board on various water quality and quantity activities of the District.

A. UGRWCD Letters of Comment on Homestake Pitch Uranium Mine Alternatives Analysis and Risk Analysis.
B. Slate River at Baxter Gulch Gage Update
C. UGRWCD Prehearing Statement for the Regulation 87 Dredge and Fill Program and the Issues Formulation Hearing.

IV. Wet Meadow & Riparian Restoration Program

A. Presentation by Joslyn Hays, Denver University Capstone Project – Wet Meadow Prioritization Mapping

B. Presentation by Ryan Outler and Jules Iovino, UGRWCD Wet Meadow Technicians – Year End Report

C. Wet Meadows Program Director, Amanda Aulenbach, memorandum of request authorizing general manager to add seasonal technicians to UGRWCD staff payroll without having to come back annually to the board, contingent upon the availability of annual grant funding to support the positions.
Recommendation for Board Action: Authorize the General Manager to hire on-going seasonal Wet Meadow Program technicians to be fully funded by Wet Meadow Program grant and cooperative agreement funding as available.

Return to General Manager's Memo

Organizational Strategic Plan & Executive Coaching Proposal

Submitted to: Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District

Prepared by: Civic Consulting Collaborative

Civic Consulting Collaborative

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
210 Spencer Avenue, Suite A
Gunnison, CO 81230

Dear Sonja Chavez and the selection team,

The Civic Consulting Collaborative (CCC) is in the business of building ideal teams and approaches for extraordinary and often contentious collaborative planning projects. We are thrilled to present this proposal to facilitate the development of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District's new strategic plan and executive coaching.

The team we've assembled thrives at the intersection of Colorado water resources, strategic planning, and organizational and leadership development. We've successfully led projects ranging in complexity, including the Colorado River Water Conservation District's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, Colorado's Private Lands Conservation Plan, and the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District's Plan, which just passed unanimously by their board.

We believe there are three primary ways in which our team and approach stand out:

1. **We are deeply familiar with your work**: Our project lead, Jacob Bornstein, began working on Colorado water issues in 2003 on the West Slope. He was the lead author of the first Colorado Water Plan, facilitated the original Basin Roundtable process, led work to identify West Slope perspectives on Demand Management, and has recently led the development of several western Colorado conservancy and conservation district plans.
2. **We are uniquely qualified to integrate executive coaching into the strategic planning process**: The CCC also has principal-level executive coaches, each with experience in natural resources and strategy. A strong rapport between executive and coach is a foundational element of success, and we're offering three remarkably skilled coaches to consider. In addition, the choice of coach may be influenced by any additional needs to address within the project (e.g., board training, leadership training, culture work).
3. **We know how to move groups beyond the factors that bench most plans.** Beyond our depth of experience in water strategy, our breadth of planning experience has shown how to avoid some of the most common pitfalls in strategic planning. First, our process builds and maintains strong staff and board buy-in throughout the project. Second, we prioritize flexible plans that don't get derailed and relegated to a shelf when the unexpected happens by working with staff leaders to develop change management skills, and with staff to build an adaptive implementation plan that carries the strategy forward.

We very much appreciate your consideration. We hope to talk to you soon and look forward to addressing any questions you may have about the proposal.

Sincerely,

Jacob Bornstein and the Civic Consulting Collaborative project team

Project Team Qualifications

About the CCC

In 2018, Civic Consulting Collaborative (CCC) launched a consortium of deeply experienced independent facilitators and consultants with values of authenticity, community, equity, growth, impact, and integrity and a shared mission to collectively support clients in making meaningful impacts. Our Colorado-based firm is organized as a cooperative, meaning that all of our consultants are member-owners. Our team of principal-level consultants offer facilitation, evaluation, strategic planning, organizational change management, research, public relations and engagement, and a variety of other services to state and local government, foundations, nonprofits, and social enterprises.

We handpick project teams that excel in the skills needed for each client, and we've assembled an extraordinary group of experts for this RFP focused on strategy and leadership. Not only are we known for our high-quality work, collaborative spirit, and proactive communication style, but we also have unparalleled delivery throughout any project.

Project Team

The CCC brings one of the most experienced water resource strategy teams in Colorado. Project lead Jacob Bornstein has done extensive water work, including working for the Roaring Fork Conservancy, managing the water plan process for the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and leading strategic planning efforts for the Southwest Water Conservation District, Colorado River Water Conservation District, and the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, among other water-related projects. With over 20 years of water experience, including living on and working with Western Slope water organizations, Jacob brings the level of breadth, depth, and experience needed to lead UGRWCD's development of a new strategic plan. He is joined by Erik Arndt, project manager for this work and expert in human dimensions of natural resources, as well as one of three outstanding executive coaches for the General Manager to choose from. See Appendix A for a complete summary of relevant experience.

Jacob Bornstein, Project Lead. Jacob will oversee the project team and be the primary facilitator and project design lead for the strategic planning components. In addition to his involvement in a wide range of water-related strategy projects described above, Jacob has also led planning efforts across many other fields with clients including state and local governments, nonprofits, businesses, and foundations. This extensive experience means Jacob can offer a synthesis of the best strategy design thinking from natural resources, business, and the social sector that is tailored to each project.

Erik Arndt, Project Manager. Erik has worked with Jacob for nearly five years on a similarly broad range of natural resource projects, including most recently on strategic plans for the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District and Colorado River Water Conservation District. His diverse background including social science, natural resource conservation, and community engagement means his approach to project management focuses on identifying the most essential elements of the process and creating flexible plans around them. In doing so, he helps teams and clients operate within the natural ebb and flow of their operations, avoiding overly rigid projects that can't adjust to change, as well as under planned projects that lack a driving force. In addition to project management, Erik is the lead for survey and interview development and analysis.

Executive Coach Options

It is critical for an executive to have a strong rapport with their executive coach, which is a primary reason why we are offering three options. In addition, the executive coach will provide support for the strategy work, as well as any of the optional tasks for culture, board training, and leadership development, should they be selected.

Nikki Murillo: Nikki is a certified Life, Leadership, and Executive Coach. She uses a strengths-based approach and incorporates narrative theory with powerful questions and active listening to get to the roots of any challenge. Nikki and Jacob provided Executive Team coaching for the CRWCD, and she supported strategy development for that project. Nikki is also an organizational culture expert, providing training on a variety of culture-related topics and helping organizations institute practices that improve organizational culture over time.

Marisol Rodriguez: Marisol is a master facilitator and an expert in organizational development with experience advising the strategic growth of countless public sector organizations. She specializes in strategic planning, and is inspired by the synergy between strategy and highly effective leaders and teams. Clients count on Marisol's uncommon ability to help teams composed of individuals with diverse skills, styles, and perspectives come together in alignment around a shared path forward. Marisol supports executives through a mix of compassionate listening, and insightful questions that help them uncover their blind spots and identify how to move forward. In addition, Marisol does board trainings, and culture work.

Kerri Drumm: Kerri brings over 20 years' experience guiding and supporting diverse stakeholders to develop and achieve shared goals. Kerri specializes in organizational leadership, strategic planning, and conflict resolution. She has worked extensively in cross-cultural and multicultural settings and is bilingual (Spanish/English). Clients appreciate Kerri's asset-based approach, systems thinking, and ability to build consensus. Her experience includes employment with the United Nations, in public education, nonprofit leadership, and instructional design. In addition to consulting, Kerri teaches in the Organizational Leadership MA program at the University of Denver. Kerri is also a certified mediator and brings her conflict resolution skills to her consulting, as well as offering board training and leadership development.

Appendix A. Related Project Experience

Project	Client	Public Agency	Natural Resources	Strategy	Leadership / Coaching
Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District Updated Strategic Plan (2025)	Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District	✔	✔	✔	
Colorado River Water Conservation District Strategic Plan (2025)	Colorado River Water Conservation District	✔	✔	✔	✔
Partners in the Outdoors Stakeholder Engagement (2024)	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	✔	✔	✔	✔
Southwest Water Conservation District Strategic Plan (2021)	SWCD	✔	✔	✔	✔
CCAA Strategic Planning (2023) 10-yr strategic plan	Colorado Community Action Association	✔		✔	✔
Denver Climate Action Task Force (2020)	City and County of Denver	✔	✔	✔	
Cleveland Tree Coalition Strategic Plan (2023)	Cleveland Tree Coalition		✔	✔	✔
Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services Strategic Plan (2021)	Greater Salt Lake City Municipal Services District	✔		✔	✔
Leadership Coaching	Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks	✔	✔		✔
Pacific Crest Trail Strategic Plan (2023)	Pacific Crest Trail Association		✔	✔	✔
Sustainability Advisory Council (2021)	City and County of Denver	✔	✔		✔
Transportation and Infrastructure Advisory Council (2021)	City and County of Denver	✔	✔		✔
Trails with Wildlife in Mind (2020)	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	✔	✔	✔	
Crystal River Wild and Scenic and Other Alternatives (2024)	Colorado River Water Conservation District, Pitkin County, Gunnison County, Town of Marble	✔	✔	✔	
Conscious Conversations Series	Equity in the Built Environment - CO Coalition			✔	✔

Project	Client	Public Agency	Natural Resources	Strategy	Leadership / Coaching
Healthcare Strategic Planning (2024) 10-year strategic plan	Florida Healthcare provider			✓	✓
Long-term Culture Development	Community Radio of Northern Colorado			✓	✓
MiSide Strategic Planning (2024)	MiSide			✓	✓
Participatory Budgeting	City and County of Denver	✓		✓	✓
Private Lands Conservation Plan (2023)	Keep It Colorado		✓	✓	
Staff and Board Culture-Building and Strategy Alignment	Convivir Colorado			✓	✓
West Slope Perspectives on Demand Management (2021)	Colorado Water Conservation Board	✓	✓	✓	
Colorado CarShare Strategic Plan (2024) 10-year strategic plan	Colorado CarShare		✓	✓	
3 Year Strategic Plan 3 Year Evaluation	Great Outdoors Colorado (City of Westminster lead)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Board Training (Roles and Responsibilities & Board Advocacy)	National Park Service, National Heritage Sites	✓			✓
Strategic Plan (2025)	Catamount Institute		✓	✓	✓

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board Members

FROM: Beverly Richards, Augmentation Program Manager

DATE: October 27, 2025

SUBJECT: Crested Butte Fire Department – Dry Hydrant in Slate River

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Background: It came to our attention in late September that the Crested Butte Fire Department (CBFD) was constructing a dry fire hydrant that would utilize the Slate River as a water source. We became involved due to the fact that CBFD is a current Meridian Lake Reservoir augmentation customer. Their current augmentation certificate does not provide fire protection as a use for their well.

In discussions with Tom Rozman, Water Commissioner District 59, and the Division of Water Resources (Evan Jones), they made a determination based upon a site visit by the Commissioner with the contractors and CBFD that though this hydrant would be used for training, the training would only encompass exercises related to connecting the fire hose to the hydrant. Any other training which might involve substantial water use would be done under the Town's municipal decree.

It was also noted by DWR that if the dry hydrant happened to be used for training during times of shortage (when the Slate River is on call), any water used in connection with the training would be returned to the stream and would be considered a non-consumptive use. When there is no shortage, i.e. there is no call on the Slate River, a return of the water to the stream would not be necessary.

It was noted by the Commissioner that there are 5 or 6 instances where dry hydrants utilize direct access to a stream in the Upper Gunnison basin.

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AGENDA ITEM 7

Presentation on Cloud Seeding by North American Weather Consultants

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AGENDA ITEM 8

Basin Water Supply Update

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MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board Members

FROM: Beverly Richards, Water Supply Planning Manager

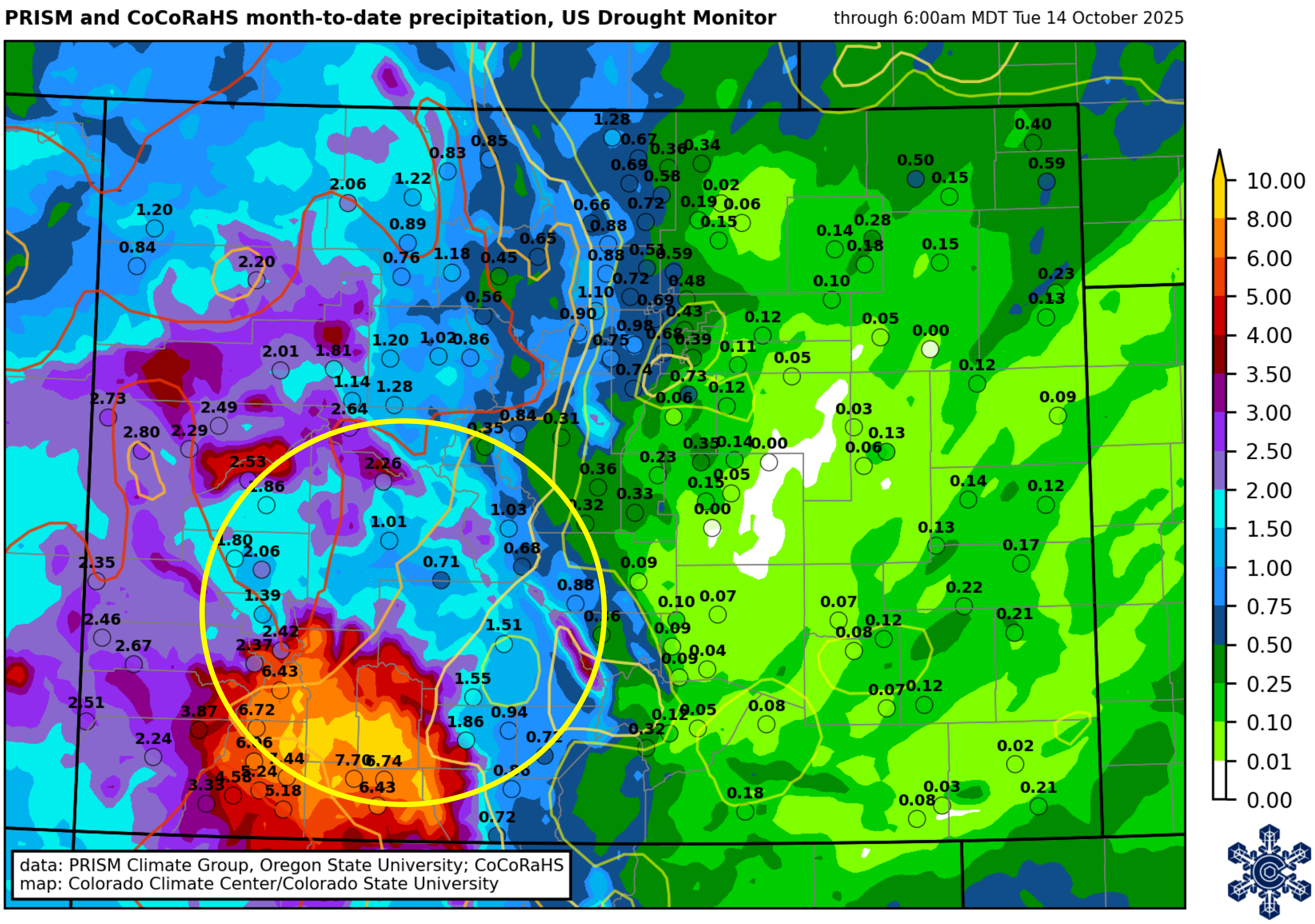
DATE: October 17, 2025

SUBJECT: October Basin Water Supply Information

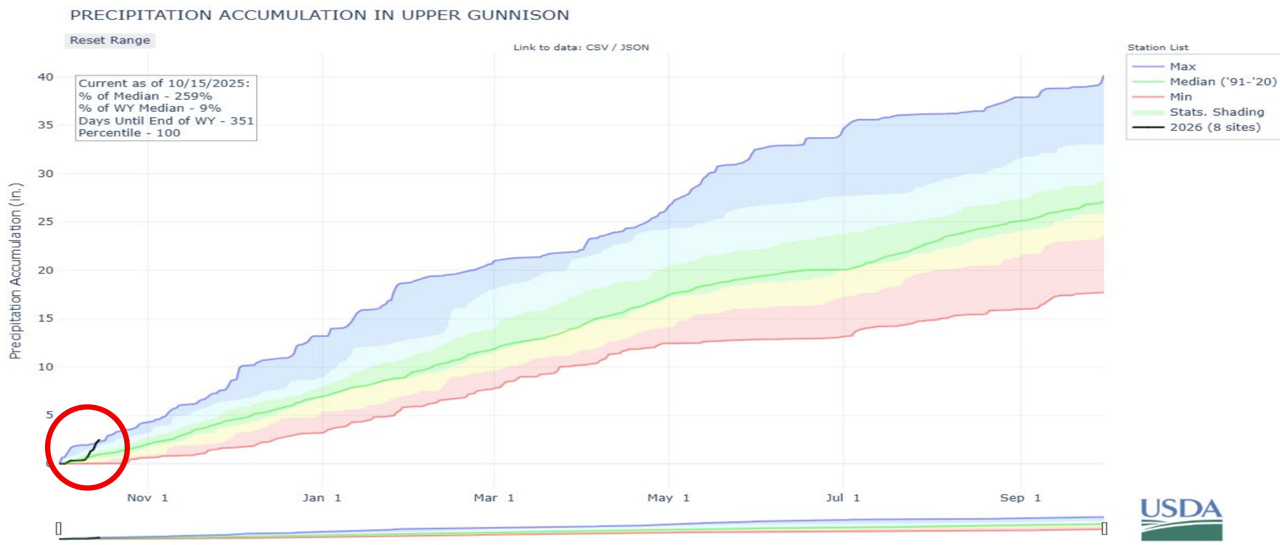
The information supplied as part of this memorandum is a monthly feature and typically includes information about drought, precipitation, soil moisture, streamflow, and reservoir storage. However, updated drought conditions were not available due to the government shutdown. This month we will focus on the precipitation events that have occurred over the past two weeks as well as water supply information.

Precipitation

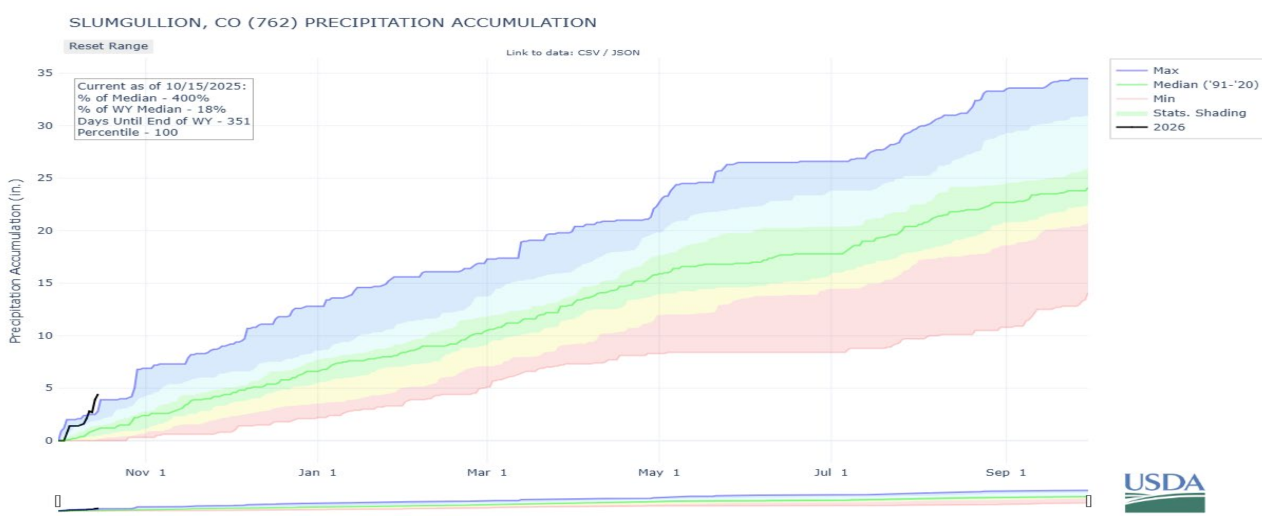
The map below represents the precipitation amounts for the State over the past 7 days (October 7 to October 14). The lighter colors represent no precipitation and the yellow colors at the top of the graph represent precipitation amounts of 10.0 inches. As the map shows, numerous areas to the southern part of the basin including Hinsdale County received precipitation in those higher ranges of 8.0 to 10.0 inches. This level of precipitation has resulted in flooding in several areas. The San Juan River peaked at 12.6 feet deep, its highest level since 1970 (*The Colorado Sun, October 14, 2025)*.

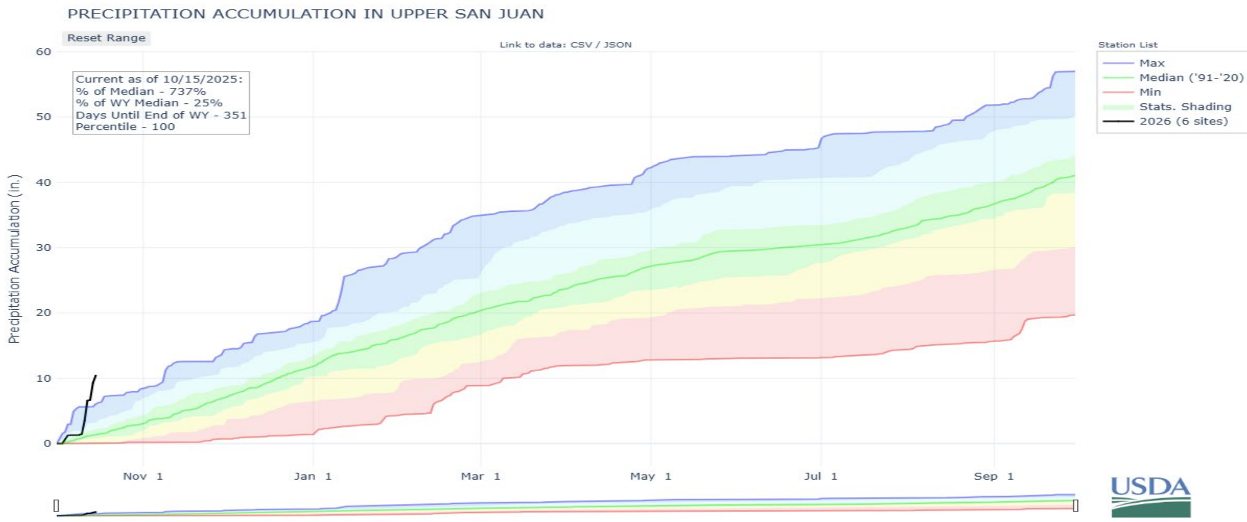


The precipitation trend graph provided below for the entire Upper Gunnison Basin is compiled from data from eight SNOTEL sites located in the basin where precipitation is measured. This graph shows the uptick in precipitation that occurred in just five days. The Upper Gunnison Basin went from 0.4” of precipitation on October 10th to 2.5” by October 15th, which is above the maximum amount for that date. This puts the basin at 259% of the median amount for this time of year.



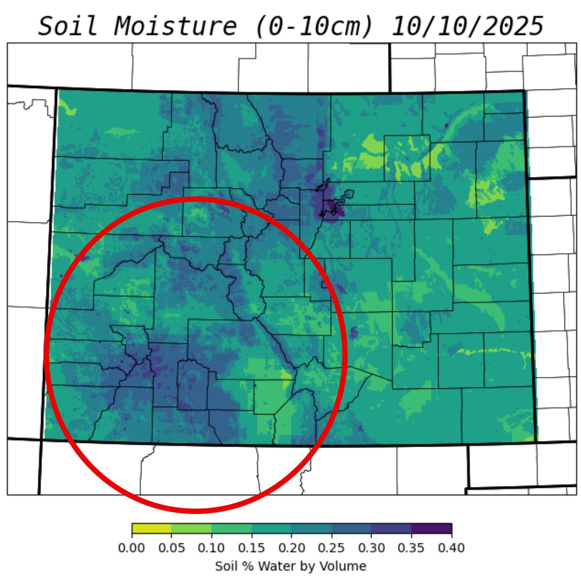
The conclusion that can be drawn from this information is that we received some substantial precipitation from this last storm, particularly in Hinsdale County and to the south, see the trend graphs for Slumgullion (400%) and Upper San Juan (737%) provided below. Also, the graphs show that precipitation in October is typically on the lower side with precipitation amounts not increasing until early November.





Soil Moisture

Provided below is current soil moisture map for the State *(Colorado Climate Center, October 10, 2025)*. This map includes soil moisture percentiles at the depth range of 0 to 10 centimeters. The warmer colors represented on the maps are lower percentiles and the cooler colors are higher. Soil moisture at this depth ranges from 10% to 40% primarily in Hinsdale County. This map does not reflect the precipitation that occurred between October 10th and October 15th. The percentiles could change when the reports are updated due to that event and could also result in drought condition improvement.



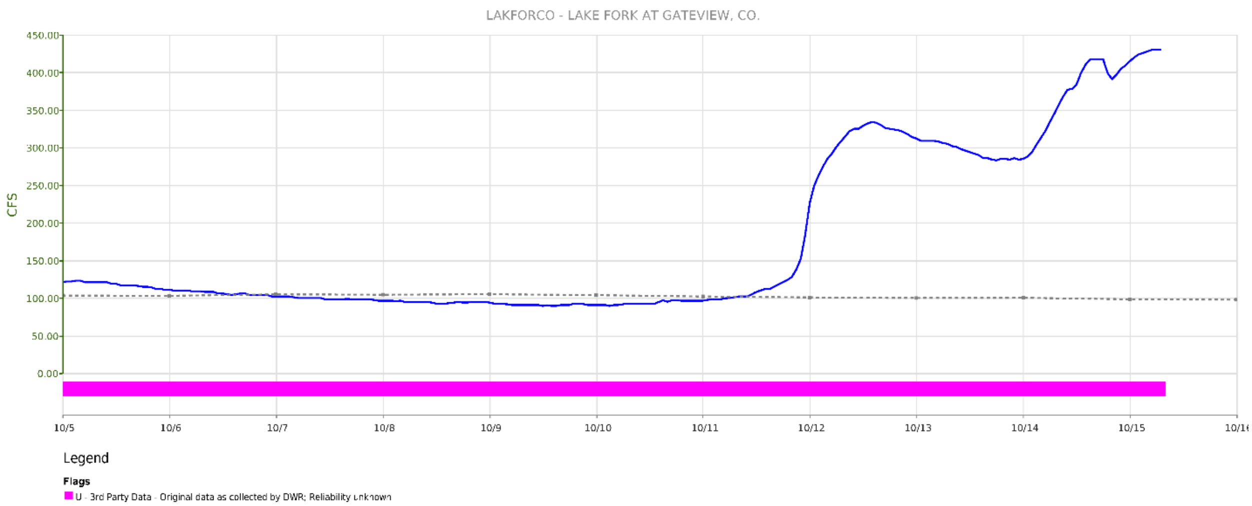
Streamflow

Current streamflow information for the basin is provided in the table below (*CDSS, October 15, 2025).* As you can see, all but one of the sites are above historical average, some extremely so due to the precipitation event detailed above. Those extreme sites are located on the Lake Fork in Hinsdale County where they saw precipitation amounts ranging from 3.5 to 10.0 inches over the past fourteen days. Also of note, the Slate River above Baxter Gulch gage is currently offline as they are currently doing work in the river associated with The Whetstone development.

Station Name	October 15 (cfs)	Historical Average October 15 (cfs)	Percentage of Historical Average (%)
Gunnison River near Gunnison	425	389	109
Tomichi Creek at Sargent's	53	29	182
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	165	93	177
Taylor River at Taylor Park	78	56	139
*Taylor River at Almont	196	233	84
Slate River abv Baxter Gulch	Not Operational		
East River blw Cement Creek	157	113	140
East River at Almont	167	117	142
Lake Fork blw Lake San Cristobal	194	28	692
Henson Creek at Lake City	151	30	503
Lake Fork at Gateview	425	98	433

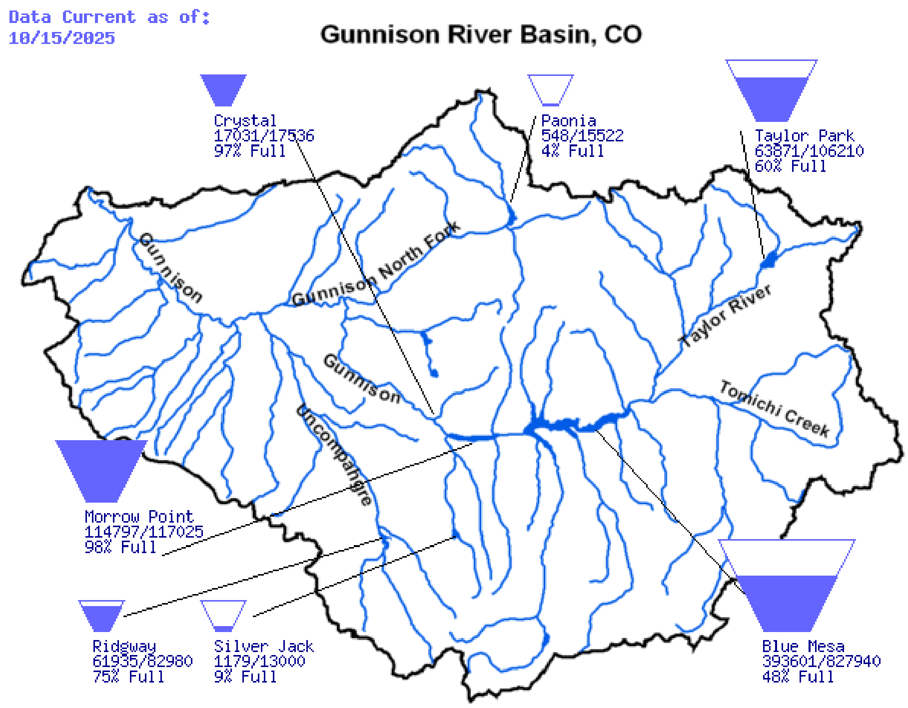
*Below historical average

Provided below is the hydrograph associated with the Lake Fork at Gateview gage. This shows the precipitation activity that began on October 11th and continued through October 15th. As you can see this shows the considerable difference between the current flows (blue line) and the historical average which is represented by the dotted grey line.

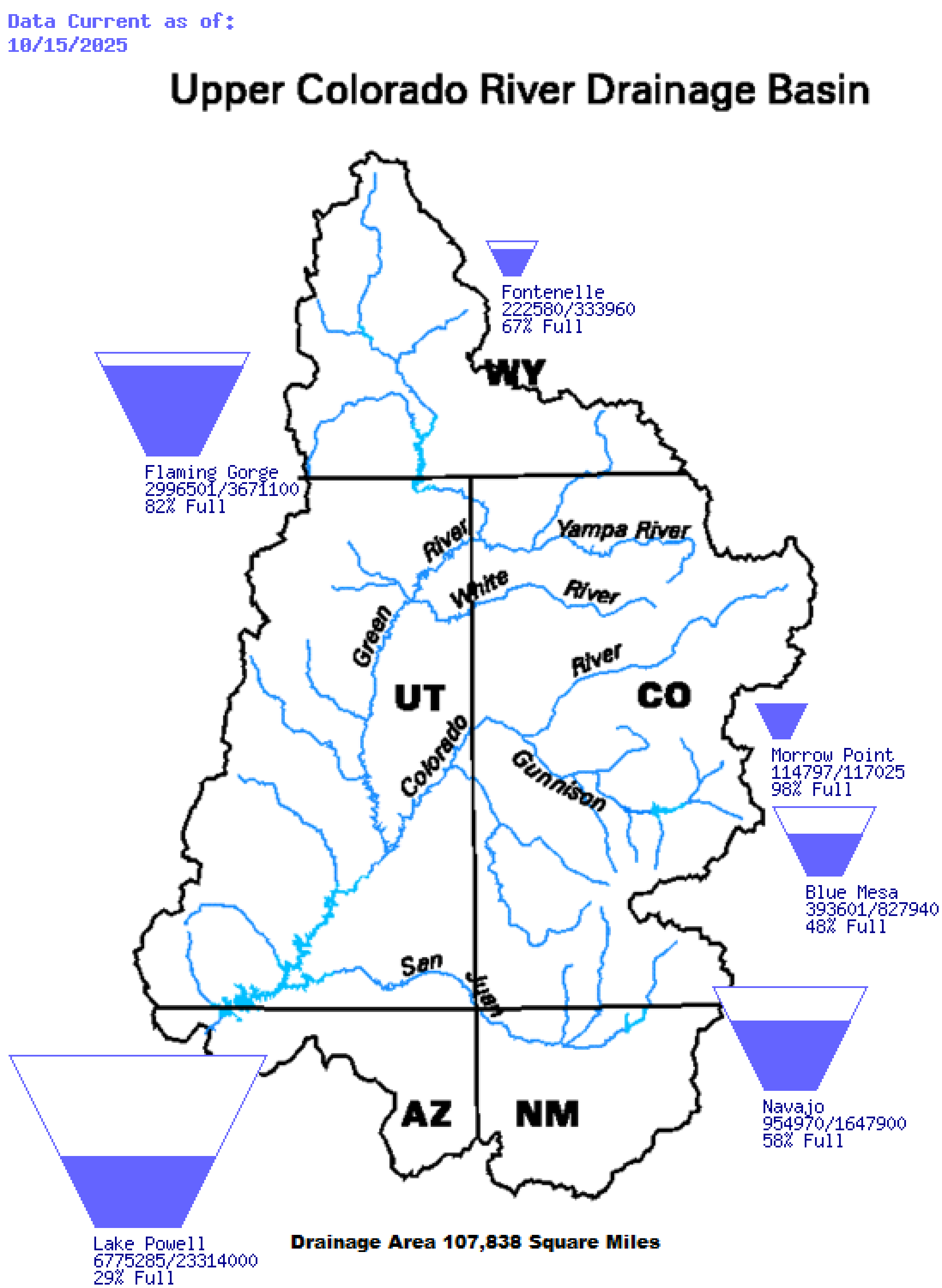


Reservoir Storage and Operations

Reservoir storage in the entire Gunnison Basin is 56%, which is the same as the September report. Reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison Basin include Taylor Park and Blue Mesa, which are at 60% and 48% full, respectively. The total reservoir storage amount in the Upper Gunnison basin is 54% full, which is a decrease of 6% from September. (*USBR, River Basin Tea-cup Diagrams, October 15,2025)*.



Reservoir storage in the Upper Colorado River Basin is 64% full, which is a decrease of 1% from the September report. This is reflected in the tea-cup diagram provided below dated October 15, 2025.



Aspinall Unit Operations

The following information is from the Aspinall Unit Operations webpage (*US Bureau of Reclamation dated October 3, 2025)*.

The September unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa was 30,000 acre-feet, which is 88% of normal. Unregulated inflow volumes forecasted for Blue Mesa for the next three months (October, November, December) are projected to be: 24,000 acre-feet or 66% of average; 23,000 acre-feet or 78% of average; and 21,000 acre-feet or 83% of average, respectively.

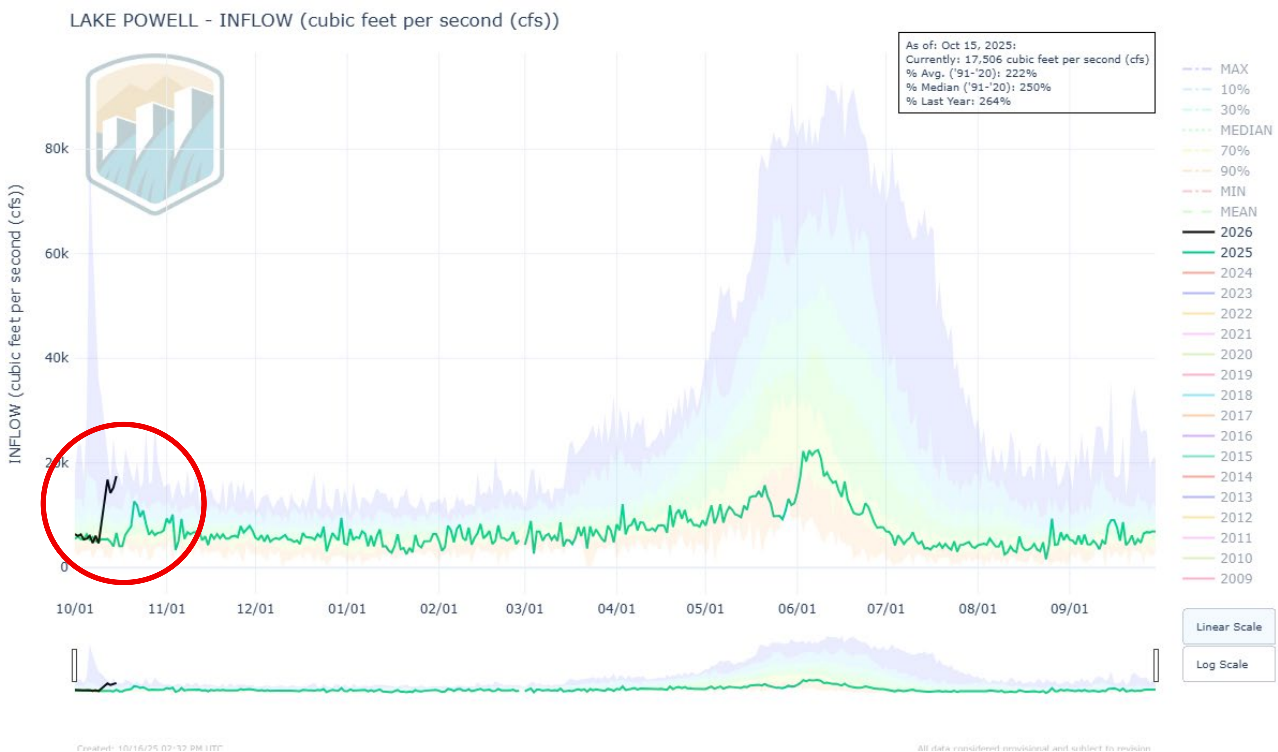
The forecasted WY2026 unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa is projected to be a total of 806,000 acre-feet which is 89% of average. The water supply period (April-July) for 2026 is currently forecasted to have an unregulated inflow volume of 585,000 acre-feet (90% of average). Blue Mesa ended WY2025 at an elevation of 7467.96 which is approximately 417,862 acre-feet of storage or 50% of capacity.

The next Aspinall Unit Operations Group meeting will be held in January 2026, date and time to be determined. District staff will attend and will provide updates from this meeting.

Lake Powell Operations

This information is provided by the *Lake Powell Water Database* webpage (*lakepowell.water-data.com)* and is dated October 15, 2025.

Lake Powell elevation is currently at 3545.10 feet with a content of 6.77 million acre-feet (maf) or 29% full (24,322,000) acre-feet. Total inflows for WY26 to date are 272,830 acre-feet which is 99% of the historical average for October 15th as shown in the graph provided below (*USBR, October 15,2025)*. The total releases out of Glen Canyon Dam for WY26 to date have been 234,919 acre-feet which is 3.13% of the minimum required 7.5 maf for the water year.



During WY26 to date, storage has risen by 26,600 acre-feet with total inflows exceeding total outflows by 37,911 acre-feet. Inflows for WY26 are 168.5% of WY25. The thirty-four tracked reservoirs above Lake Powell are currently at 69% of capacity and the rivers feeding into Lake Powell are running at 168% of the October 15th average. Lake Powell is now 154.9 feet below the full pool. The current elevation of 3545.10 is 20.1 feet above the critical elevation of 3,525 feet.

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AGENDA ITEM 9

Staff and Committee Updates

Return to General Manager's Memo Return to Agenda

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board or Directors

FROM: Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Project Manager

DATE: October 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Geofluvial Final Report and Story Map

Background:
The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District retained Watershed Science and Design (WSD) in 2021 (Phase 1) and 2023 (Phase 2) to proactively assess areas within the Upper Gunnison River Basin (Basin) that are vulnerable to the impacts of post-wildfire hazards related to flooding and riverine hazards as well as identify opportunities for post-fire flood hazard mitigation and explore other options for protecting water, infrastructure, and public safety Assessed watersheds included the East River, Taylor River, Tomichi Creek, Cebolla Creek, Lake Fork, and select tributaries to Blue Mesa Reservoir.

Projects and management ideas that are proposed are those presented by Watershed Science and Design that should provide benefits to the communities and natural resources within the Basin. General Counsel McClow has reviewed and approved the "Limitations and Use" statement included in the Executive Summary section.

Projects are presented as Organizational Actions (activities centered around policy, planning, and public engagement to lesson post-fire hazards) and Landscape Actions (projects that can be implemented on the landscape). Landscape Action Strategies are as follows: protection, restoration, infrastructure modifications, burn severity mitigation, and contamination mitigation.

The following summary information table is provided for each project.

Topic	Description of the Information Given
Strategy Recommendations	Which of the Landscape Actions (protection, restoration, infrastructure modifications, burn severity mitigation, and contamination mitigation) is recommended for a project strategy
Location	Geographic location described using commonly known features (i.e., roads, diversions, city limits)
Project Intent	Proposed physical changes to the landscape
Project Benefits	The benefits to the community of those changes were to occur
Project Details	Specific treatment types associated with the proposed physical changes described above
Partners	Agencies or organizations that could be project participants
Next Steps	Next steps of what could be done in the immediate future to begin the project.
Notes	Additional Information

In 2025, staff worked with WSD to complete the Upper Gunnison Geofluvial Assessment Report. An associated StoryMap was created to allow the public to explore the report in an interactive way and click through various maps and polygons allowing them to see the information presented in this report. All information within the StoryMap is identical to that within the report.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION: Approve the final Geofluvial Assessment Report and StoryMap for public distribution and viewing.

Return to General Manager's Memo

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MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board or Directors

FROM: Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Project Manager

DATE: October 8, 2025

SUBJECT: UGRWCD Water Wise Garden

Background:

The historic outdoor landscape area at the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District's office, 210 W. Spencer Avenue, consisted of 1,500-2,000 square feet of non-functional turf grass. The maintenance of these area and its associated high-water use was not consistent with the District's ethic around wise and responsible water use and our messaging to our community.

Average cost of irrigation from June through September 2024 for irrigation water was $281.64 per month; average cost of landscaping services from May through October 2024 was $391.67.It is estimated that transitioning from a turf grass landscape to a xeriscape landscape can reduce was usage by 50-75%.

In late 2024 the District applied for and was selected by the Colorado Water Conservation Board to participate in a Transformative Landscape Challenge opportunity through Resource Central. Awardees were provided with turf removal services and "garden in a box" plants free of charge and had to agree to implement the transformation of our landscaping to a low water use environment.

In addition, in 2024 the District began its community Drought Resiliency Planning process and through stakeholder engagement learned that many residents of the local community are interested in replacing their traditional lawns to a drought tolerant alternative but don't know where to begin, what kind of costs are involved, etc.

The main goal of the District's landscape transformation was to serve as a "learning by doing" opportunity for staff, creating an long-term educational demonstration garden for the community, and highlighting actual water saving benefits and costs.

The following is a summary of Phase 1 of the District's Xeriscape Project and the anticipated work to follow during Phase 2 and Phase 3.

Phase 1:

Phase 1 of the project included: removal of turf, acquisition and installation of plants, installation of rock landscaping, and installation of a Rain Bird Irrigation Control Box. This irrigation control box has allowed staff to more accurately time and manage watering.

The turf removal occurred from June 11 through June 13, 2025, and plants were delivered on June 12, 2025. Plant kits received included a total of 615 drought tolerant native plants selected by Resource Central. A detailed plant list with their characteristics is included below for reference.

Photo 1: Front of the office prior to turf removal

Staff spent a total of 194 hours installing the landscaping from June 2025 through September 2025. A total of $13,332 has been spent so far on the project landscape design, onsite support during plant and rock installation, and materials and supplies.

All plants chosen were selected for their classification as drought tolerant or low water needs, pollinator friendly, and native species to Colorado. In just a short time (June 2025 – October 2025) nearly all the plants have at least doubled in size. Staff consistently sees pollinators and hummingbirds showing the immediate benefits of the landscape change.

The plant list included:

- Columbine
- Gold columbine
- Blue Gramma Grass
- Blue Fortune Hyssop
- Furman’s Red Salvia
- Moonbeam Coreopsis
- Rose Marvel Salvia
- Basket of gold
- Black-eyed Susan
- Furman’s Red Salvia
- Purple Dome Aster
- Walkers Low Catmint

Photo 2: Staff and Margaret (landscape designer) placing plants

Plant List

Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*):

Sun needs:	Partial shade – shade
Pollination:	Hummingbirds and butterflies
Water Use:	Low – Medium
Soil Moisture:	Dry – Moist
Soil Description:	Sandy, well-drained soils.
Wildlife and pollinators:	Birds, butterflies, hummingbirds. Moderate deer resistance.
Other notes:	Aquilegia comes from the Latin word aquila, which means “an eagle”

Gold Columbine (*Aquilegia chrysantha*):

Sun needs:	Partial shade – shade
Pollination:	Butterflies
Water Use:	Medium
Soil Moisture:	Moist
Soil Description:	Moist, well-drained sandy, rocky, loamy, limestone or igneous soils
Wildlife and pollinators:	Butterflies and bumblebees
Other notes:	May go dormant during drought, but minimal moisture and adequate shade can prevent this.

Blue Gramma Grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*):

Sun needs:	Sun
Water Use:	Low - Medium
Soil Moisture:	Dry
Soil Description:	Well-drained, low organic content, gravelly soils or sandy loams, clays.
Wildlife and pollinators:	Wildlife grazing ; seeds-granivorous birds; butterflies
Other notes:	The taller it grows, the less water it will need

Blue Fortune Hyssop (*Agastache X*):

Sun needs:	Full sun
Water Use:	Low
Soil Moisture:	Average
Soil Description:	Fow fertility soil and well-drained soil
Wildlife and pollinators:	Bee friendly, attracts butterflies, and deer and rabbit resistant.
Other notes:	Long bloom period.

Furman's Red Salvia (*Salvia greggii*):

Sun needs:	Sun
Water Use:	Low
Soil Moisture:	Dry
Soil Description:	Well-drained, rocky soils, usually limestone of great or lesser orga nic content.
Wildlife and pollinators:	Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds
Other notes:	Leaves can be used fresh or dried for seasonings and teas, the flowers are edible.

Moonbeam Coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*):

Sun needs:	Sun – partial shade
Water Use:	Low
Soil Moisture:	Dry
Soil Description:	Sandy, well-drained soils
Wildlife and pollinators:	Attracts birds and butterflies
Other notes:	Lifting and dividing rhizomes every 3-4 years controls plant spreading and also increases the vigor of the plant.

Rose Marvel Salvia (*Salvia nemerosa*):

Sun needs:	Full sun
Water Use:	Waterwise / Average
Soil Moisture:	Average
Soil Description:	Average, sandy, well-drained soils
Wildlife and pollinators:	Bee friendly, attracts butterflies, and rabbit and deer resistant
Other notes:	Easy to grow

<u>Basket of Gold (*Alyssum saxatilis*):</u>

Sun needs:	Full sun
Water Use:	Low
Soil Moisture:	Dry
Soil Description:	Rocky soil
Wildlife and pollinators:	Attracts butterflies
Other notes:	Low growing and can serve as ground cover

<u>Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *Sullivantii*):</u>

Sun needs:	Full sun – partial sun
Water Use:	Dry to average
Soil Moisture:	Moist but well-drained
Soil Description:	Chalk, clay, loam
Wildlife and pollinators:	Deer and rabbit tolerant. Attracts birds, butterflies, and bees.
Other notes:	The specific epithet *fulgida* means "shining" or "glistening".

<u>Purple Dome Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*):</u>

Sun needs:	Full sun – partial sun
Water Use:	Average
Soil Moisture:	Average – Moist
Soil Description:	Well-drained
Wildlife and pollinators:	Attracts birds and butterflies. Deer and rabbit tolerant.
Other notes:	Divide plants every 3 years in early spring to maintain disease resistance.

<u>Walker's Low Catmint (*Nepeta racemose*):</u>

Sun needs:	Full sun – partial sun
Water Use:	Low
Soil Moisture:	Low – average
Soil Description:	Well-drained
Wildlife and pollinators:	Tolerant of deer and rabbits. Attracts bees and butterflies.
Other notes:	Very low-maintenance.

Conceptual Design

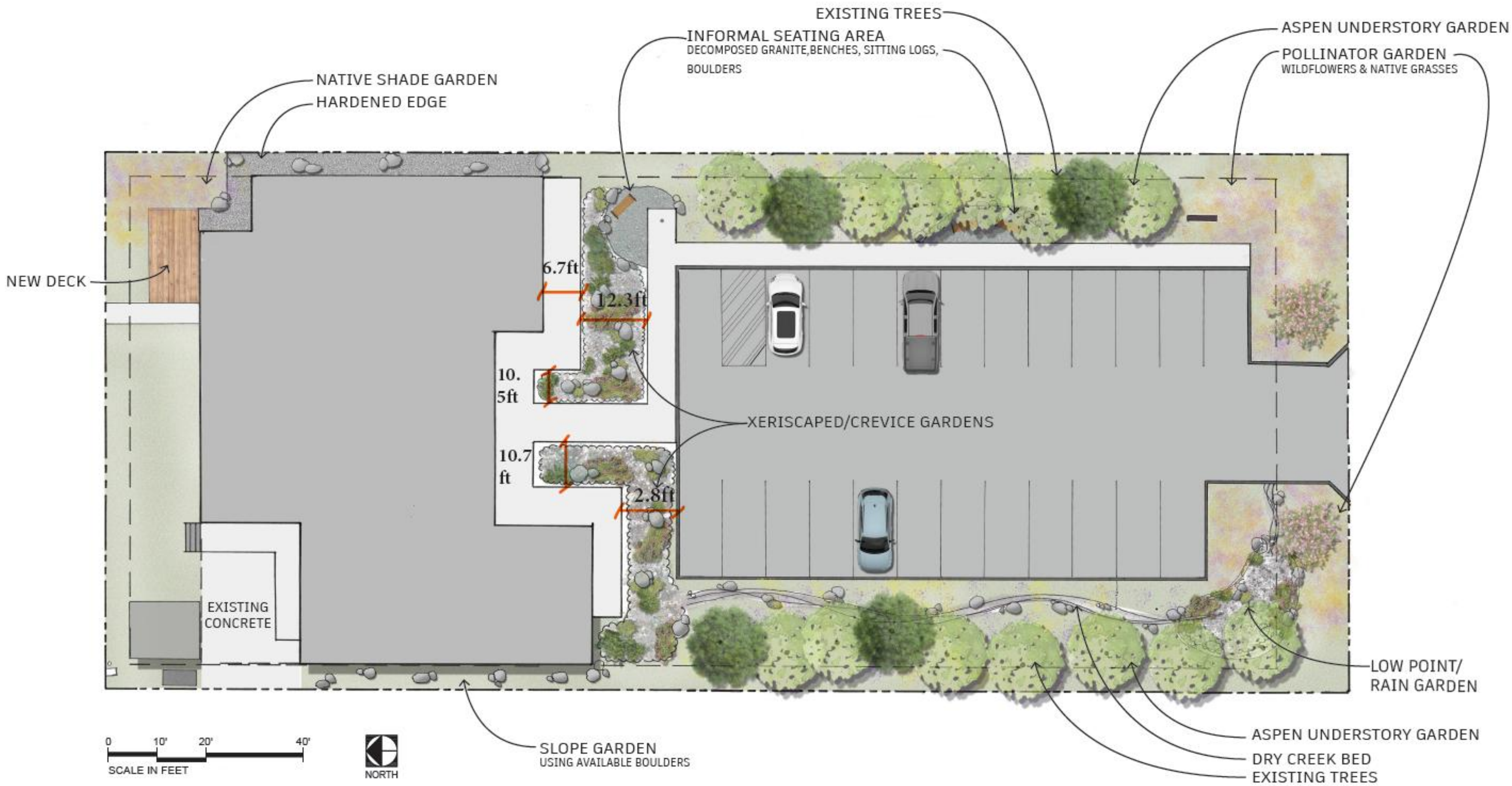

Figure 1: Conceptual design for landscape

The conceptual design for the landscape was given to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District by SCJ Studio. Phase one completed the areas directly in front of the office and the front of the parking lot (adjacent to Spruce Street). SJC Studio will provide an updated design map in October 2025 with updated dimensions and garden descriptions.

Phase 1 Photos

Photo 5: Amanda Aulenbach installing plants.

Photo 4: Beverly Richard's granddaughter helping to garden.

Photo 3: Beverly Richards, Sonja Chavez, Ryan Outler, and Bailey Friedman installing plants.

Photo 6: Front planter near Spruce Street prior to gravel installation.

Photo 7: Front planter near Spruce Street during gravel installation.

Photo 8: Planter adjacent to office building. Rose granite installation.

Photo 9: Planter adjacent to office building during blue granite "river-scape" installation.

Photo 11: Planter adjacent to office building after rose granite installation.

Photo 10: Planter adjacent to office building after rose granite installation.

Photo 12: Planter adjacent to office building after rose granite installation.

Photo 15: Same area as Photo 12. Completed installation of all rock-scape.

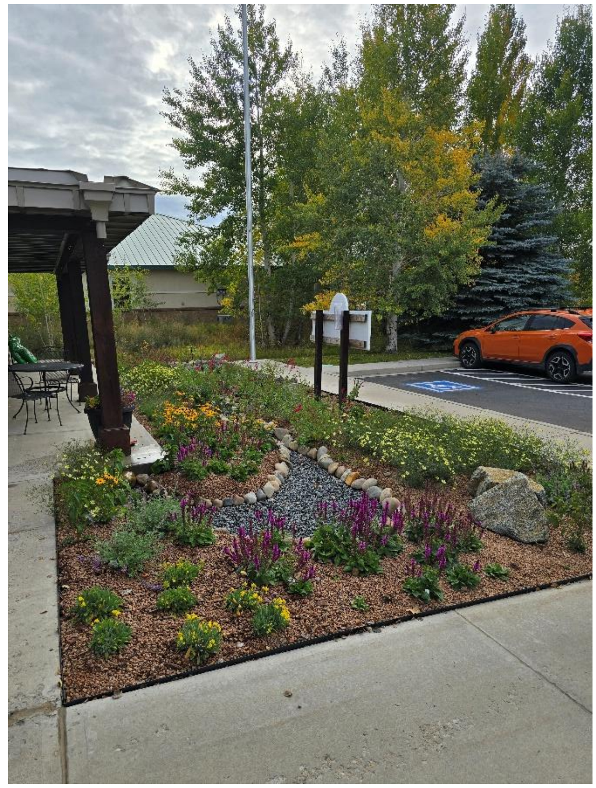

Photo 14: Same area as Photo 12 after complete installation of rock-scape.

Photo 13: Rock scape area of compacted blue granite. A table and chairs will be placed here for staff to work outside and for visitors to enjoy.

Photo 17: Plants have thrived and grown over double in size from June to September. Butterflies, pollinators, and hummingbirds are seen daily.

Photo 18: Planter adjacent to office building showing plant growth and rock-scape installation.

Photo 16: Facing the front of the office. Plant growth and rock-scape can be seen. Refer to Photo 3 for June to September difference.

Lessons learned

Lessons learned to share with the public include:

- Having a well thought out plan prior to ordering materials to ensure the correct number or volumes of plants, ground cover (rock and/or mulch), irrigation infrastructure, and other features you would like to incorporate are available and budgeted for.
- At the start of implementation, the first step should be updating the irrigation system so you are not working around plants and will allow for more precise application of water.
- Be smart about plant selection, placement, and grouping. Plants can and should be grouped based on similar water needs; and can be put together in groups of odd numbers, similar sizes, and colors.
- Improve soil quality through means such as compost or other organic material prior to planting.
- Don't underestimate the workload and don't get discouraged through the process.
- The success of turf removal can be highly depending on the underlying soils and cobble composition within the soils.

There are many resources available in Gunnison that are available to assist in installing a xeriscape garden. Example gardens to look at include that at the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Office, the Gunnison Library, and the Gunnison U.S. Forest Service Office. In addition, the City of Gunnison, CSU Extension, Gunnison Conservation District, and Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District have resources available to help our community select appropriate native and drought tolerant plants.

Next Steps / Phase 2:

Phase 2 of the Xeriscaping project will begin in the 2025/2026 winter season. Staff will create informational materials for visitors to the office to learn about the project. Materials will include signage and pamphlets for visitors to learn more about local and native drought tolerant plants, drought tolerant landscaping techniques, water smart practices, potential associated costs, and plants that will attract native pollinators and birds.

Photo 19: An example of the type of interpretive sign staff will be designing.

The installation of a deck on the back of the building (Figure 1) that will serve as a gathering and relaxing workspace for staff, visitors, board dinners, and break times is expected to be completed in May or June 2026.

Staff will work with the District's landscaping contractor to re-design the sprinkler head system as well. This was not completed during Phase 1 as the end of the irrigation season was around the corner, other tasks were prioritized over this, and scheduling limited this work. This will occur in the spring of 2026. The irrigation system will not be redesigned but new sprinkler heads that emit less water will be strategically placed throughout the system. This will allow staff to limit watering areas (such as the trees along the parking lot) while allowing other areas to receive more water. When the plants are fully established, 2 to 3 years, they should only need rare supplemental watering.

In 2026, staff will begin to collect data to compare Xeriscape garden water use against pre-project turf water use to document water savings and any other savings associated with maintenance costs.

Long-term / Phase 3:

In 2027, staff will work on fully completing this project by Xeriscaping the east and west sides of the building.

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

October 9, 2025

Colorado Water Quality Control Commission
Attention: Amy Konowal, Acting Administrator
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530

Re: Prehearing Statement for Regulation 87 - Dredge & Fill Control Regulation

Dear Ms. Konowal,

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (District) is a registered Party interested in providing public comment and input to the Commission related to the Water Quality Control Division's consideration of promulgation of the Regulation #87: Dredge and Fill Control Regulation (5 CCR 1002-87) to establish requirements, prohibitions, and standards for the discharge of dredge and fill material into state waters.

The District's mission *is to be an active leader in all issues affecting the water resources of the Upper Gunnison River Basin*. Our board is committed to maintaining high water-quality standards in our community in order to ensure a healthy economy and environment while also being a strong and consistent voice guarding against inequitable and unmitigated damage to Western Slope interests including our water rights and the ability to put our water to beneficial use.

As such, the District is providing the following comments:

- **Activity as a Whole**: Our District continues to have concerns with the Divisions definition of Activity as a Whole throughout the control regulation which greatly expands as you proceed through the regulatory process including annual fees in the thousands of dollars during monitoring and the incorporation of conditions associated with "future" revisions to water quality standards:
    - **Section 87.2 Definitions** (Subsection 1) "**Activity as a Whole"** includes… "the project's short and long-term operation." It is unclear what is considered "short-term operations" and what is considered "long-term operations" and how this relates to the duration of the permit? This becomes more concerning when the Division states in Section 87.6 Individual Authorizations (Conditions to Protect Water Quality(D)) that

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the Divisions will consider putting conditions into the permit related to compliance with "future revisions to water quality standards". See additional comments below.

- **Conditions to Protect Water Quality**
  - **Section 87.6 Individual Authorizations (Subsection 5(d)(i)(D))** "…Such conditions may include adaptive management requirements to address any major changes to the underlying assumptions that formed the basis for the authorization conditions, <u>or to comply with</u> <u>future revisions to water quality standards</u> (emphasis added)".

    It's unclear how the Division will incorporate language or requirements associated with compliance with <u>future revisions to water quality standards</u>. Are these "contemplated" future changes or "approved" changes to standards that go into effect within the permit time period? If the Division proposes changes to standards that are just outside the permittees five-year authorization period, can the Division require the permittee to extend the permit?

    The District feels that this language is inconsistent with the original intent of HB24-1379. Per Section 4(IV)(B) of the legislation, *If the commission finds, based on a demonstration at a public rulemaking hearing, that the guidelines set forth in section 404(b)(1) of the federal act are not protecting state waters, the commission shall amend its rules or adopt new rules to protect state water….*

    And, Subsection (C), *The Commission's finding to support any changes to its rules must be <u>based on sound scientific or technical evidence</u> in the record demonstrating that <u>rules more protective</u> than the guidelines set forth in Section 404(b)(1) of the federal act are necessary to protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of state waters. The findings must be accompanied by a statement of basis and purpose referring to and <u>evaluating the information and studies contained in the record, which form the basis for the Commission's conclusions</u>.*

    And, Subsection 4(IV)(b) of the Legislation, **Rules for individual authorization** does not contemplate a condition for possible "future revisions to water quality standards."

- **Time Period for Divisions Determination on Individual Authorization Applications (Section 87.6 Individual Authorizations, Subsection 10(a)**

  The District believes that a two year time period for the Division to make a permit application approval or denial is unacceptable. There remains significant concern among stakeholders statewide on this matter. Recommendations provided to the Division for consideration included that the time period(s) for permit decisions be based upon the complexity of the project. As a comparison, the Corps of Engineers has a goal of making non-controversial permit decisions within 120 days of receiving a complete application and they also state that the more complex a project is, the longer it can take (Reference can be found at Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District webpage at the following link: Individual Permits). We recommend that the District prepare a similar "goal statement" that bases reasonable permit response times on the complexity of the project thereby giving applicants a better sense of what timeframe they can expect for approvals.

- **Compensatory Mitigation (Section 87.10 Compensatory Mitigation, Subsection 6(b) Monitoring Period)**

  The District is unclear if the Division will require the applicant to continue annual individual permit fees during periods of monitoring. The District is opposed to continuation of permit fees at $9,000 per year during monitoring periods or periods where there may be slow aquatic response times.

- **Dredge and Fill Program Fees (Section 87.12)**

  The District is opposed to the exorbitant fees proposed by the Division. We understand that the legislature has asked the Division to come up with a permit fee system that supports 40% of the programs direct and indirect costs but saddling permittees with exorbitant annual program fees is unjust and is not consistent with the Division's potential work effort during these periods. For comparison, the Army Corps of Engineers has a $100 permit fee for commercial projects and a $10 permit fee for non-commercial projects (Please utilize the following link to the US Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District Individual Permits).

In closing, we appreciate the work that the Division has done to date but feel strongly that several significant stakeholder concerns as highlighted above were not given the appropriate attention by the Division. We look forward to working with the Division and others to try to come up with additional clarifying language and approaches to resolving matters of outstanding concern.

Sincerely,

Sonja Chavez

Sonja Chavez, General Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors

FROM: Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist
Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Project Manager

DATE: October 27, 2025

SUBJECT: Basin Water Quality & Quantity Update

Homestake Pitch Uranium Mine (Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist)

The UGRWCD's letter of feedback on Homestake's Alternatives Analysis (AA) was submitted on September 23rd, 2025 to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment. The Board of Directors and other stakeholders were copied on the email transmission. A copy of the letter can be accessed HERE.

A second letter was submitted on October 13th, 2025 regarding the Risk Analysis (RA). The RA is a document related to the AA wherein Homestake details potential consequences of implementing uranium control measures (e.g., noise pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from generators). A copy of UGRWCD's letter of comment on the RA can be found HERE.

Slate River at Baxter Gulch Real-Time Stream Gage (Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist)

In late September, staff became aware of construction impacts to the Slate River immediately downstream of the USGS sampling station known as *Slate R AB Baxter GL @Hwy 135 NR Crested Butte, CO* (USGS-385106106571000). The construction in the river is associated with Gunnison County's Whetstone affordable housing development. The project includes water and wastewater infrastructure being installed beneath the Slate River channel bed which has caused significant modification of the channel, affecting the station's ability to accurately report water flow rates via a stage-discharge relationship.

The stage-discharge relationship of a sampling location is the correlation between the water depth (the actual measurement taken on the ground) and the flow rate of the entire channel (a calculated value). Because the correlation depends on the shape of the channel, the stage-discharge relationship is unique to each sampling location and therefore must be developed over time for each location. The channel manipulation and downstream sediment deposition caused by the construction has affected the shape of the channel, and therefore initiates a need to completely restart the process of developing the stage-discharge relationship at this station. In the meantime, no reliable/accurate flow rate data will come from this station for the next 3-5 years. The General Manager was informed that the water infrastructure construction period would be approximately two weeks but at the time of this memorandum is still on-going.

General Manager Chavez was in communication with the USGS Supervisory Hydrologic Technician regarding the costs and timeframe associated with getting the gage back on-line and reporting accurate data when the government shut down happened. At the direction of the board, she will be asking Gunnison County to cover the cost of USGS personnel time needed to reestablish the stage-discharge relationship when they return to the office.

Water Quality Control Division: Dredge & Fill Rulemaking (Regulation 87), Bailey Friedman (Water Resources Project Manager)

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District has registered as a Party for the hearing process regarding Regulation 87. The full regulation and notice of public hearing can be found HERE. All party prehearing statements can be found HERE. The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District's Prehearing Statement for Regulation 87 can be found HERE.

The below table presents the timeline for the remainder of the Regulation 87 process:

Date	Event	Additional Information
October 10, 2025	Responsive prehearing statements from proponents/parties due	Each party must submit a prehearing statement.
November 14, 2025	Rebuttal statements due	Following this due date, no other written materials will be accepted from parties except for good cause shown.
November 18, 2025, by 12:00 PM	Last date for submittal of motions	
November 19, 2025, at 2:00 PM	Prehearing Conference (mandatory for parties)	Register Here
November 21, 2025, by 5:00 PM	Cutoff of negotiations	
December 1, 2025, by 12:00 PM	Division's consolidated proposal	
December 4, 2025, by 4:00 PM	Presentations Due	
December 8, 2025 – December 10, 2025 9:00 AM	**Rulemaking Hearing**	Register Here

Each prehearing statement and rebuttal statement must be a separate PDF document from any accompanying written testimony or exhibits.

Oral testimony at the hearing should primarily summarize written material previously submitted. The hearing will emphasize commission questioning of parties and other interested persons about their prehearing submittals. Introduction of written material at the hearing by those with party status will not be permitted unless authorized by the commission.

General Manager Chavez and Water Resources Project Manager Friedman have read through other party's prehearing statement and have found consistent themes amongst them. A document summarizing the statements from each party is available upon request. These themes consist of the following concerns with the regulation as it stands:

- Multiple parties have raised concerns regarding the definition of state waters as being water that are "non-Waters of the United States (WOTUS). Whereas HB24-1379 definition broadly includes WOTUS. Subsequent issues from this could occur such as WOTUS being a fluid definition and many water bodies in the state are excluded from the definition presented in the regulation.
- There are multiple instances of the Regulation applying authority where it has none based on the legislation.
    - HB24-1379 was created only for discharge into state waters, *not* for ongoing operations of projects. The Regulation presents conditions for fees and permitting regarding the ongoing operations of projects without clarity of what this means.
        - This comes up as a concern for many groups regarding the definition of "Activity as a Whole" and the ongoing yearly fees.
    - The inclusion of "public interest" is not supported by HB24-1379 and therefore including it in the regulation will lead to litigation.
    - The legislation states that the regulation will not impede water rights, however:
        - There has been no consultation with the State Engineers Office regarding the draft of the regulation.
        - Parties recommended that alternatives that may harm a water right do not have to be analyzed.
    - Legislation says that the Commission cannot add or remove exemptions but limiting section 87.3(4)(g) to "agricultural-related" structures does just this.
    - The added definition of wetlands "adjacent" to and "supported by" irrigation ditches is not within the legislative authority of the Regulation.
      Concerns have been raised over the continued operation of water delivery infrastructure and how this Regulation could interfere with water rights (such as ditch maintenance). Federal Clean Water Act Section 404 exempts irrigation ditches, making this a deviation from the legislature intent.
    -
- Regarding Fees

- Nearly all groups presented statements of opposition to the current proposed fee structure which is presented in 87.12 as:

Subsection	Description	Fee Amount
(a)	Temporary Authorizations and Notices of Coverage under General Authorizations for projects not requiring compensatory mitigation, excluding projects that qualify under subsection (e) below	$4,320 per authorization per year
(b)	Temporary Authorizations and Notices of Coverage under General Authorizations for projects requiring compensatory mitigation.	$9,000 per authorization per year until a Certification of Completion is issued.
(c)	Consultation	$180 per hour
(d)	Individual Authorizations	$180 per hour, beginning with a pre-application consultation with the division. $9,000 per year until completion of construction, site stabilization, and compensatory mitigation requirements.
(e)	Temporary Authorizations and Notices of Coverage under General Authorizations for projects conducted under USACE NWP 27 (Aquatic Habitat Restoration) or the division's equivalent General Authorization. Voluntary ephemeral stream restoration projects under subsection 87.3(3)(n) are exempt and therefore not subject to this fee.	$500 per authorization per year

- Statements regarding fees express they are excessive, there is a lack of clarity of justification and why fees continue to stay high throughout the permit coverage time (especially for projects that will no longer need Division oversight once issued).
- Statements were made that all projects that don't require a preconstruction notification should have a lower fee as these projects don't increase the Division's workload, lack of clarity regarding the hourly fee (does this mean per staff hour or per division hour [2 staff + 1 hour = $360 or 1 total staff Division hour = $180), and fees should be aligned with Division effort to process an application.
- Throughout the stakeholder engagement process, many people have expressed concerns over the fee structure and seemingly excessive fee costs.

    - Eliminate fees for restoration projects after the initial fee payment.
        - Other NWP for restoration (3, 13, 27) should be included in the lower fee category.
        - Additionally, authorizations that don't require preconstruction notification should not have a fee or have a reduced as these don't increase Division workload.
    - The fee structure should *actually* mirror the USACE fee structure, as the division said it would.
    - Consultation fees should be incorporated into the permit fee, so there isn't an additional cost.
- Regarding Consultations
    - Many groups have expressed a desire to have stakeholder input in the drafting of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the various agencies that the Regulation could possibly consult with during the application review process. There should also be public process around the modification and creation of MOUs.
    - There is no clear language clarifying the applicant's role in the consultation process.
    - Ther is no specific language with regard to what triggers a consultation and the Division's role during the consultation process.
    - The State Engineer's Office should be included in the consultation process to ensure there is no injury to water rights.
- Regarding Alternatives
    - Alternatives that exclude the overall purpose and need for the project should not be included in the alternatives analysis.
    - The alternatives analysis in the application review process should be done early in the process in case a project needs to be reworked.
    - There needs to be clear language for standards to guide the Division when evaluating alternatives, especially regarding water rights. Alternatives could make people seek water rights that are not available. Projects that could injure water rights should not be included in the alternatives analysis.
- Regarding Application Documents
    - The Regulation should allow for documentation from other permitting processes to satisfy some of all the application requirements where they are relevant (such as NEPA). Concerns over duplicating the NEPA process were expressed.
    - Language should be added to allow applicants to appeal issues raised during the 30-day review period.
- Regarding Notifications of Application

  - There is currently no language in the Regulation regarding if an application is not complete, how the Division will notify the applicant, and the timeline that it should be done in.
- Regarding Multiple Authorizations
  - If a project will be covered under a General Authorization and Individual Authorization, the regulation does not allow work to start on the project for areas that the General Authorization would cover.
- Regarding Compensatory Mitigation
  - One group would like to see language added that an applicant may use mitigation bank credits that were previously purchased. The currently language implies that credits must be purchased.
  - An acre-based approach to compensatory mitigation fails to acknowledge the offset of functionality that could be lost.
  - Compensatory Mitigation for Mitigation Banks is limited to HUC6 or HUC8 areas, this is a disadvantage for rural communities that do not have mitigation banks.
- Regarding Definitions
  - The legislature does not allow the modification of definitions.
  - "Activity as a Whole"
    - There is an open-ended nature with the current definition when it comes to long-term operations of a project, especially when it comes to yearly fees and project footprint (the portion of the project that requires and operation or the project in its entirety).
  - "Wetlands"
    - Include language that an appropriate means of determining what a wetland is can be through a USACE Wetland Delineation.
- Regarding Voluntary Restoration
  - Concerns were raised regarding what is not exempt under voluntary restoration projects (riprap and dredge). Restoration projects often require dredge or ripap to ensure their success.
  - One group presented concern over voluntary restoration projects for mine remediation, which can be long-term projects and how this relates to yearly fees and an excessive cost.
- Regarding Multijurisdictional Projects
  - Language should be included to clarify situations where an applicant may need both a state authorization and USACE permit.
- Regarding General Authorizations.
  - General Authorizations are based on the 2021 USACE NWP which expires around the same time the Regulation goes into effect. The Regulation says that General Authorizations will be redone within one year of USACE General

    Authorizations – this timing contradicts itself and could lead to outdated General Authorizations due to outdated NWPs.
  - "Deferring" to the Section 404 permits does not follow the intent of the legislature as it does not follow the guidelines for the Regulation.
  - There has been no analysis on current NWP and what will become the state equivalent General Authorizations.
- Regarding Ditches
  - Only one group presented concern over work in ditches regarding new Measurement Rules. It is unclear is installing a measurement device within a ditch is an exempt activity or if an authorization is needed.

Return To WQ Memo

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

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

September 26, 2025

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
Attention: Blake Beyea, Standards Feasibility Unit Manager & Grady Colgan, Physical Researcher I
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246

Re: Alternatives Analysis Related to Homestake Mining DSV Request

Dear Mr. Beyea and Mr. Colgan,

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) has been participating in the technical stakeholder input process related to the Alternatives Analysis (AA) submitted by Homestake Mining Company (HMC) on October 16, 2024, to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) in pursuit of a Discharger-Specific Variance for uranium discharge to Indian Creek, which sits within our political boundary and impacts water quality within our District.

Specifically, UGRWCD provides the following input:

1) The Alternatives Analysis (AA) states that any actions involving National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or any other support from the US Forest Service (USFS) is considered "outside the control" of HMC. The UGRWCD would like to see continued meaningful engagement with the USFS in these discussions, as well as expanded consideration of any alternatives that were excluded for this reason. Such alternatives include, but are not limited to: 21, 26A, 27A, 28A, 29A, 30A, 31A, 32A, 33A, 29B, 30B, 31B, 32B, and 33B.

    a. In alternative 28A, for example, moving the discharge point closer to Marshall Pass Road would significantly increase feasibility for winter site access and acquiring lined power to the infrastructure; it would also significantly reduce the amount of infrastructure needed. These alternatives seem to solve the majority of the logistical concerns surrounding the alternatives already in section 4.

Exploration of these alternatives should include an estimate of the aerial footprint of the infrastructure that would need to be placed on USFS land.

b. There are conflicting reports regarding whether Marshall Pass Road is plowed (Saguache County reports that the road is plowed in the winter, whereas Mr. Wykoff reports that it is not). As much as is relevant to the above alternatives or any others, further clarity is needed regarding this issue; specifically, whether the road is plowed or groomed, and how that may or may not affect the feasibility of the alternatives. If it is the case that the status of the road impacts the feasibility of certain alternatives, further investigation will be necessary to determine what it would take to support consistent plowing or grooming, such as securing support from some combination of Saguache County, CDOT, Homestake itself, or other entities.

UGRWCD understands that the USFS may have previously expressed "disinterest" in opening a road to the site, but that does not imply an unwillingness or inability of USFS to support reasonable actions that would protect the adjacent ecosystem and downstream water users, including support of NEPA.

UGRWCD further requests clarity on the precedent, if any, of past processes (DSV or other CDPHE processes) that relied on NEPA permitting as part of the discharger's required actions. Specifically, we are interested in the timeline of actions and what progress, if any, would be needed in the NEPA workflow prior to the June 2026 DSV hearing.

2) The ion exchange (IX) method is claimed to be not feasible due to difficulty with site access in the winter and the power demands of an on-site system. UGRWCD would like to see the data and information associated with this alternative (e.g., nearest three phase power and associated cost estimate).

3) On the bottom of page 111 of the AA (first sentence of section 5.2), it is stated that the Economics Test is failed if a "substantial **OR** widespread" impact is expected as a result of the alternative under consideration. Note that the CDPHE guidance document referenced here (Policy 13-1) specifically uses the language "substantial **AND** widespread." This distinction is important to the stringency with which alternatives can be eliminated on the basis of this test. While we understand that no current alternatives have failed the Economics Test, this distinction may become more relevant if/when USFS input expands the list of alternatives, as discussed previously.
4) In section 7.2.2 (EJScreen), the results of the analysis are given by county, which has limited applicability to the context of a transportation route. Any repeat of such analyses, or other analyses with similar goals, should be limited in scope to those communities that

are immediately adjacent to the proposed routes and not be skewed by communities that, while occurring within the same county, would be unaffected by transport-related risks.

We understand that the results of this analysis were not used in the generation of risk scores, but if the results are expected to contribute in any way to the Other Consequences considerations, they should be representative only of the relevant communities.

a. All numbers, in addition to the way they are currently presented, should also be presented as percentiles of their respective states and the country. E.g., "25.4% of Saguache County residents live below the poverty line (AA, p. 122)." Further context is needed, including: how much of any given county or city in Colorado and the U.S. is below the poverty line? What percentile is Saguache County for median income, relative to the state and the U.S.? Furthermore, as stated above, these metrics should be presented for the communities adjacent to the transport route, not just by county.

5) Figure 7-3 is a valuable figure and should be kept. In addition to this one, we would like to see a figure showing risk score plotted against expected uranium load reduction for each alternative.

6) In the discussion of the final form of the AEL, the District encourages a numerical AEL over a narrative AEL, as the numerical framework keeps the focus of actions and results confined to the site's discharge and therefore is expected to be most effective from a holistic watershed health perspective, especially when considering the wildlife and habitat immediately adjacent to the site, as well as any water users not included in the well replacement effort.

In closing, we appreciate CDPHE's and HMC's consideration of this input, and we look forward to continuing participation in the technical stakeholder input process. If you have any technical questions, please contact Mr. Ari Yamaguchi, UGRWCD Water Resources Specialist at ayamaguchi@ugrwcd.org or 610-291-1008 or you can also contact me at schavez@ugrwcd.org or 970-641-6065.

Sincerely,

Sonja Chavez

Sonja Chavez
General Manager

Cc: John McClow, General Counsel

UGRWCD Board of Directors
Dave Wykoff, Homestake Mining Company
Michael Hay, Arcadis U.S., Inc.
Ashley Bembenek, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
George Parrish, US Environmental Protection Agency
Emily Nutgrass, US Forest Service
Garth Gantt, US Forest Service
Saguache County Commissioners
Gunnison County Commissioners

Return to Water Quality Report

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

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

October 13, 2025

Via Email:
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246
Attn: Grady Colgan, Physical Researcher I, Blake Beyea, Standards Feasibility Unit Manager

Re: Risk Analysis Related to Homestake Mining DSV Request

Dear Mr. Colgan and Mr. Beyea,

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) has been participating in the technical stakeholder input process related to the Risk Analysis (RA) submitted by Homestake Mining Company (HMC) on October 16, 2024, to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) in pursuit of a Discharger-Specific Variance for Uranium discharge to Indian Creek, which sits within our political boundary and impacts water quality within our District.

Specifically, UGRWCD provides the following input:

1) Per the UGRWCD's previous letter, there are several alternatives precluded from the RA based on the assumption that NEPA and/or other USFS support is infeasible. The RA should be expanded to include those other alternatives that were eliminated on this basis.
2) The UGRWCD agrees with the verbal feedback and comments provided in CDPHE's memo dated September 25, 2025, where it is stated that many of the tests and assessments of potential Other Consequences appear to be novel in their calculation methods and styles of reporting. The UGRWCD echoes these sentiments, and requests that the RA include more traditional tools and metrics when describing the risks associated with the alternatives. Where no such tool

exists, or a deliberate detour is taken from the traditional methods, UGRWCD requests explicit justifications for the deviations.

a. Please explain if there is a more traditional model that can speak to the same metrics calculated by the RICHCOVWET, and if so, why it was not used; please provide output of such models for this site if they exist.
b. Please provide documentation of the model's development. Alternatively, please provide the sources referenced (Arcadis, 2015a; Arcadis, 2015b; Arcadis, 2016; Arcadis, 2022).
c. The RICHCOVWET model is based on 25 years of data from a site in Idaho; please provide justification for its applicability to a site in Colorado, as well as the appropriateness of extrapolating the results past the next 25 years (e.g., figs. 3a-d are calculated out to the next 110 years).

3) Regarding NOAEL- and LOAEL-derived metrics, note that some of the phrasing may be construed as misleading. For example, where a NOAEL-derived HQ has a value of 5, the interpretation is that the uranium concentration is 5X the limit of having "no observable adverse effects." It cannot then be accurately concluded that there is "no expected risk," even if the LOAEL-HQ in this example is <1. In other words, if uranium concentration is 5X the "no effect" level, it cannot be accurately described as having "no effect."
4) UGRWCD would like to know if CDPHE has reviewed the NOAEL and LOAEL screening values, and if they agree that the values are appropriately used in these calculations.
5) For the biomonitoring evaluations, the UGRWCD appreciates the provision of the annual reports. We further request a consolidation of the aggregate data across all years to provide a more holistic understanding of the biological communities potentially affected by uranium loading over the entire 26-year study period. In addition to the metrics already provided, this aggregate summary should include multimetric indices familiar to state water regulations, including but not limited to macroinvertebrate and fish MMIs (Hilsenhoff, e.g.).
6) Section 2.1.5.2 details the fish assemblages in the vicinity. Please include historical context of any and all fish stocking and feeding activities.
7) Section 2.2.2 assesses the impact of sound on the local wildlife. The equations used assume a textbook idealized space (no reflective or deflective surfaces or wind interference). The estimated impact should include consideration that the actual setting is a stochastic environment, where any noise-making infrastructure would be surrounded by rough ground, vegetation, and wind; further considerations of noise impacts should include implementation of noise-reducing infrastructure (e.g., most up-to-date generator technology, sound-dampening barriers, etc.).

8) Section 2.2.3 indicates that in the event of a spill, the solubility of transported materials is low and that cleanup time would be quick. Sections 2.2.3.1 and 2.2.3.2 go on to assume an exposure dose of 10.7 mg/L over five days. Please verify that these exposure doses are aligned with the expected cleanup time and the solubilities of the various potential waste media, including the different dissolution rates of the different media (IX resin vs. BCR, etc.)
9) UGRWCD echoes CDPHE's request to include risk assessments of uranium loading and exposure mechanisms via groundwater to the habitat adjacent to the site, the grazing lands down valley of the site, and the community of Sargents.
10) UGRWCD echoes CDPHE's call for more community outreach in accordance with Policy 25-1; specifically, Sargents residents and other downvalley water users should be thoroughly informed and have opportunity for weigh-in on potential mitigation actions.
    a. UGRWCD encourages continuing outreach to the community of Sargents for the well replacement effort, such that the residents (both permanent and part-time), sufficiently aware of the benefits and risks, can make informed decisions as to whether or not to opt in.
    b. Recreationists who spend time in areas adjacent to the site should be surveyed to determine the actual amount of fish and water consumed from the land.
11) UGRWCD supports others' input that a Pollution Minimization Plan must be included in a final proposal.

In closing, we appreciate CDPHE's and HMC's consideration of this input, and we look forward to continuing participation in the technical stakeholder input process. If you have any technical questions, please contact Mr. Ari Yamaguchi, UGRWCD Water Resources Specialist at ayamaguchi@ugrwcd.org or 610-291-1008 or you can also contact me at schavez@ugrwcd.org or 970-641-6065.

Sincerely,

Sonja Chavez

Sonja Chavez
General Manager

Cc: John McClow, General Counsel
UGRWCD Board of Directors
Dave Wykoff, Homestake Mining Company
Michael Hay, Arcadis U.S., Inc.
Ashley Bembenek, Alpine Environmental Consultants, LLC (on behalf of NWCCOG)
George Parrish, US Environmental Protection Agency
Emily Nutgrass, US Forest Service
Garth Gantt, US Forest Service
Saguache County Commissioners
Gunnison County Commissioners

Return to Water Quality Report

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

October 9, 2025

Colorado Water Quality Control Commission
Attention: Amy Konowal, Acting Administrator
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530

Re: Prehearing Statement for Regulation 87 - Dredge & Fill Control Regulation

Dear Ms. Konowal,

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (District) is a registered Party interested in providing public comment and input to the Commission related to the Water Quality Control Division's consideration of promulgation of the Regulation #87: Dredge and Fill Control Regulation (5 CCR 1002-87) to establish requirements, prohibitions, and standards for the discharge of dredge and fill material into state waters.

The District's mission *is to be an active leader in all issues affecting the water resources of the Upper Gunnison River Basin*. Our board is committed to maintaining high water-quality standards in our community in order to ensure a healthy economy and environment while also being a strong and consistent voice guarding against inequitable and unmitigated damage to Western Slope interests including our water rights and the ability to put our water to beneficial use.

As such, the District is providing the following comments:

- **Activity as a Whole**: Our District continues to have concerns with the Divisions definition of Activity as a Whole throughout the control regulation which greatly expands as you proceed through the regulatory process including annual fees in the thousands of dollars during monitoring and the incorporation of conditions associated with "future" revisions to water quality standards:
  - **Section 87.2 Definitions** (Subsection 1) "**Activity as a Whole"** includes… "the project's short and long-term operation." It is unclear what is considered "short-term operations" and what is considered "long-term operations" and how this relates to the duration of the permit? This becomes more concerning when the Division states in Section 87.6 Individual Authorizations (Conditions to Protect Water Quality(D)) that

the Divisions will consider putting conditions into the permit related to compliance with "future revisions to water quality standards". See additional comments below.

- **Conditions to Protect Water Quality**
    - **Section 87.6 Individual Authorizations (Subsection 5(d)(i)(D))** "…Such conditions may include adaptive management requirements to address any major changes to the underlying assumptions that formed the basis for the authorization conditions, <u>or to comply with</u> <u>future revisions to water quality standards</u> (emphasis added)".

      It's unclear how the Division will incorporate language or requirements associated with compliance with <u>future revisions to water quality standards</u>. Are these "contemplated" future changes or "approved" changes to standards that go into effect within the permit time period? If the Division proposes changes to standards that are just outside the permittees five-year authorization period, can the Division require the permittee to extend the permit?

      The District feels that this language is inconsistent with the original intent of HB24-1379. Per Section 4(IV)(B) of the legislation, *If the commission finds, based on a demonstration at a public rulemaking hearing, that the guidelines set forth in section 404(b)(1) of the federal act are not protecting state waters, the commission shall amend its rules or adopt new rules to protect state water….*

      And, Subsection (C), *The Commission's finding to support any changes to its rules must be <u>based on sound scientific or technical evidence</u> in the record demonstrating that <u>rules more protective</u> than the guidelines set forth in Section 404(b)(1) of the federal act are necessary to protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of state waters. The findings must be accompanied by a statement of basis and purpose referring to and <u>evaluating the information and studies contained in the record, which form the basis for the Commission's conclusions</u>.*

      And, Subsection 4(IV)(b) of the Legislation, **Rules for individual authorization** does not contemplate a condition for possible "future revisions to water quality standards."

- **Time Period for Divisions Determination on Individual Authorization Applications (Section 87.6 Individual Authorizations, Subsection 10(a)**

  The District believes that a two year time period for the Division to make a permit application approval or denial is unacceptable. There remains significant concern among stakeholders statewide on this matter. Recommendations provided to the Division for consideration included that the time period(s) for permit decisions be based upon the complexity of the project. As a comparison, the Corps of Engineers has a goal of making non-controversial permit decisions within 120 days of receiving a complete application and they also state that the more complex a project is, the longer it can take (Reference can be found at Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District webpage at the following link: Individual Permits). We recommend that the District prepare a similar "goal statement" that bases reasonable permit response times on the complexity of the project thereby giving applicants a better sense of what timeframe they can expect for approvals.

- **Compensatory Mitigation (Section 87.10 Compensatory Mitigation, Subsection 6(b) Monitoring Period)**

  The District is unclear if the Division will require the applicant to continue annual individual permit fees during periods of monitoring. The District is opposed to continuation of permit fees at $9,000 per year during monitoring periods or periods where there may be slow aquatic response times.

- **Dredge and Fill Program Fees (Section 87.12)**

  The District is opposed to the exorbitant fees proposed by the Division. We understand that the legislature has asked the Division to come up with a permit fee system that supports 40% of the programs direct and indirect costs but saddling permittees with exorbitant annual program fees is unjust and is not consistent with the Division's potential work effort during these periods. For comparison, the Army Corps of Engineers has a $100 permit fee for commercial projects and a $10 permit fee for non-commercial projects (Please utilize the following link to the US Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District Individual Permits).

In closing, we appreciate the work that the Division has done to date but feel strongly that several significant stakeholder concerns as highlighted above were not given the appropriate attention by the Division. We look forward to working with the Division and others to try to come up with additional clarifying language and approaches to resolving matters of outstanding concern.

Sincerely,

Sonja Chavez

Sonja Chavez, General Manager

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AGENDA ITEM 9

Presentation on Wetland Meadow Restoration Mapping Project Plan by Joslin Hays, GIS Capstone Project

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AGENDA ITEM 9

Wet Meadows Technicians Year-End Presentation

Return to General Manager's Report

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MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors

FROM: Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Program Director

DATE: October 27, 2025

SUBJECT: Wet Meadow Program Technicians Position Approval

Background: In September 2025, UGRWCD was awarded a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the Upper Gunnison Basin Wet Meadows Capacity Building Project totaling $420,000 over the next 4 years.

In 2025, UGRWCD hired two seasonal restoration technicians and received reimbursement for all expenses from our 2024 BLM Cooperative Agreement and 2022 Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) Sagebrush Ecosystem Grant.

For 2026-2029, $146,291 is allocated in the BLM and FWS grants for wet meadow program activities. The BLM Cooperative Agreement covers technician hourly pay, workers compensation insurance, payroll taxes, and three paid holidays. The FWS grant covers technician hourly pay for non-BLM sites. Technicians will be paid $21.00/hour and work a 40-hour work week for 25 weeks, totaling $42,000 per year for both technicians. There will be no cost to the District.

Staff Request: Restoration technicians are invaluable to the Wet Meadows Program as they help carry out "on the ground" project implementation. The 2025 technicians helped build structures, collect and stage material, assist with volunteer events, conduct site and wetland assessments, assist with restoration monitoring and data collection, and help with Wet Meadow and other UGRWCD education and outreach. Hiring seasonal technicians fulfills our organizational and Wet Meadow Program multi-agency shared goal of helping to train the next generation of water resource professionals.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION: Authorize the General Manager to hire on-going seasonal Wet Meadow Program technicians to be fully funded by Wet Meadow Program grant and cooperative agreement funding as available.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors

FROM: Sue Uerling, Adm. Asst./Comm. Support Specialist

DATE: October 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Education and Outreach Program

Background: The Education and Outreach Committee initially met on August 27, 2025 to review staff recommendations for the 2026 Education and Outreach Program Action Plan and Budget Estimate. Following that meeting, Communications Specialist Sue Uerling was able to obtain additional information which allowed her to firm-up budget numbers related to UGRWCD advertisement on local RTA buses and the development of UGRWCD video clips. Because budget numbers were 10 percent higher than the original proposal that the Committee heard on August 27th, Director Zanetell called a brief remote meeting for October 6, 2025 at 2 p.m. to ensure that the Committee was supportive of the budget increase.

Ultimately, there were a number of scheduling conflicts that prevented Committee members from attending, but staff and Committee Chairwoman Zanetell received confirmation from all Committee members via email that they were supportive of the final budget figure. Minutes from the October meeting can be found HERE.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION: Approve the 2026 Education and Outreach Plan and associated budget in the amount of $70,430.

Return to Education Memo

MINUTES
Education and Outreach Committee Meeting
Monday, October 6, 2025, 2 p.m.

Present: Brooke Zanetell, UGRWCD Committee Chair and UGRWCD Staff Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, and Sue Uerling.

Absent: Directors Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, and Camille Richard (NOTE – All responded via email as noted below)

I. Chair Brooke Zanetell convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

- Director Zanetell reported that she had called the meeting to review the increase in the proposed estimate for the 2026 Education and Outlook Action Plan and Budget after the August 27, 2025 committee meeting. Communications Specialist Sue Uerling was able to get firm quotes on producing videos for the District, as well as more details from the Rural Transportation Authority (RTA) about the cost of advertising on the RTA buses. Both of these action items were brought up during the August meeting, so no firm budget figures were included in the August 27, 2025 draft. Director Zanetell explained that she was experienced in dealing with federal grants where an increase in the budget of 10 percent or more required that the committee reconvene to approve such additional proposed expenditures. She asked about the District's protocol with such increases. General Manager Sonja Chavez explained that the District has no such requirements and that as long as the committee was in agreement with the action item, the cost estimates are then included with the committee's recommendation to the full Board to approve the action plan and budget. It was noted that while Directors Carroll, Fonken and Richard all had last-minute conflicts with the meeting, they did all send emails stating that they were in favor of the increased cost estimates.
- Director Zanetell will make the motion to the Board to approve the 2026 Education and Outreach Action Plan and Budget Proposal at the October 27, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

II. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

2026 Education and Outreach Action Plan and Budget - Draft

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

	2025 Budget=$41,270	2026 Budget=$70,430	
EDUCATIONAL FOCUS AREA	**Proposed for 2025**	**Proposed for 2026**	**# Individuals Reached**
ADVERTISING			
Radio - Year-round on KEJJ and KVLE (Others?)	$ 2,500	$ 3,000	5000
CB News and CB News Magazine(s)	$ 2,500	$ 2,000	500
GC Times and The Shopper (& Magazine)	$ 3,500	$ 2,000	1500
GCT Ad - 4H Ag Winners	$ 180	$ 180	1500
Silver World	$ 1,200	$ 1,200	100
KBUT Underwriting	$ 2,160	$ 2,500	500
KVNF - Public Radio	$ 520		1000
Video spot for Cattlemen's Days, website and other public events - **NEW**		$ 10,000	10000
Sub-Total Radio and Newspaper	***$ 12,560***	***$ 20,880***	
GENERAL PUBLIC OUTREACH			
Water Message Promotional Items	$ 4,000	$ 5,000	1500
Mini-Grant Program	$3,000	$ 3,500	3000
Mayors & Managers	$ 200	$ 250	20
Sponsorship of Water Groups/Events in Upper Gunnison (includes 3 fishing tournaments)	$ 3,000	$ 5,000	1000
River Clean Up Program - possibly again in the Fall - premiere sponsorship event - Whitewater Park)	$ 1,500	$ 1,000	300
Cattlemen's Day 4-H Auction Lunch Sponsorship and Cattlemen's Days Golden Circle of Champions Sponsorhip, Arena Banner Sponsorship and Scoreboard Sponsorship	$ 500	$ 6,500	3000
General 4-H Sponsorship for Environmental Focus (to Eureka McConnell Science Museum with bus and lunch	$ 1,100	$ 1,100	30
Ag Venture Sponsorship	$250	$650	300
Crested Butte Public Policy Forum	$750	$750	350
Gunnison and CB Chamber of Commerce Memberships	$660	$750	3500
Website Hosting	$500	$800	N/A
Website Redesign work and Grapic Design		$11,000	10,000
Water Trailer Maintenance	$ 500	$ 500	5400
Three vehicle decals for three RTA buses - **NEW**		$ 1,200	15000
Total General Public Outreach:	**$ 15,960**	**$ 38,000**	
SCHOOL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS			
Swimming Classes (Ongoing)	$ 750	$ 750	400
Water Book - GES, CBES, LCES 1st Grade - **New Book**	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	165
RMBL Science Class Tour	$ 5,000	$ 6,000	180
Taylor Challenge (Water education, scholarships, general sponsorship)	$ 2,500	$ 2,500	120
Science Water Classes (supplies or board/staff involvement, sponsorship to Youth Water Summit)	$ 1,500	$ 300	100
Intern - Fall and Spring (N/A for 2026)	$ 1,000	$ -	
Total School and Educational Programs:	**$ 12,750**	**$ 11,550**	
Grand Totals	**$ 41,270**	**$ 70,430**	**64,465**

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AGENDA ITEM 9

Scientific Endeavors

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AGENDA ITEM 11

Miscellaneous Matters

Annual Convention

January 28 - 30, 2026

Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center

The Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention: a premier event bringing together key players from across the Colorado water industry. The convention serves as a collaborative platform for CWC's diverse membership body. Expert panels, interactive discussions, and lively networking opportunities keep our members engaged and returning every year.

Attendees will explore the latest developments in water management, conservation, and sustainability, sharing insights to shape Colorado's water future. With a focus on innovation and problem-solving, the event fosters meaningful dialogue aimed at tackling the state's most pressing water challenges.

2026 Theme: Water Storage

REGISTER FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION

JUMP TO EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION

JUMP TO SPONSOR REGISTRATION

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AGENDA ITEM 12
Citizen Comments

AGENDA ITEM 16

Future Meetings

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FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- **C9 Summit, Tuesday-Wednesday, October 28 & 29, 2025 in Lakewood, CO**
- **UGRWCD Grant Committee Meeting, Thursday, November 7, 2025 at 9 a.m.**
- **Headwaters Conference-Saturday, November 8, 2025 at Western CO University**
- **Veteran's Day - Offices Closed - Tuesday, November 11, 2025**
- **Gunnison Basin Roundtable - Monday, November 17, 2025 at 3 p.m. in Delta**
- **UGRWCD November Board Meeting and Budget Hearing-Monday, November 24, 2025, 5:30 PM**
- **UGRWCD Holiday Celebration - Monday, November 24, 2025, 6:30 p.m. - Ol Miner Steakhouse**
- **Thanksgiving Holiday - Offices Closed - Thursday & Friday, November 27**
- **& 28, 2025**
- **UGRWCD December Budget Approval Meeting - Monday, December 8, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.**
- **Christmas Holiday - Offices Closed - Thursday & Friday, December 25 & 26, 2025**

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AGENDA ITEM 14

Summary of Action Items

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AGENDA ITEM 15

Adjournment