



### **General Manager Updates**

- Strategic Planning
- Water Resource Project Implementation
- Advocacy
- Partnerships

### **Taylor Local User's Group Update**

- September 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes
  - **Recommendation for Board Action:** Approval of the revised *minimum* end-of-year storage content target not to go below 48,000 acre-feet.

### **Gunnison Basin Roundtable**

#### **Committee Updates**

- Finance Committee
  - **Recommendation for Board Action:** Approval of increase of paid time off for new employees within three years of employment from 14 to 16 hours.
  - **Recommendation for Board Action:** Approval of UGRWCD staff monthly housing stipend.
- Education and Outreach Committee
  - **Recommendation for Board Action:** Preliminary approval to enter into a sole-source contract with Sunshine Creatives for District communication services.

|           |     |                                        |
|-----------|-----|----------------------------------------|
| 7:20 p.m. | 8.  | <b>2027 Budget Work Session</b>        |
| 7:50 p.m. | 9.  | <b>Miscellaneous Matters</b>           |
| 7:55 p.m. | 10. | <b>Citizens Comments</b>               |
| 7:57 p.m. | 11. | <b>Future Meetings</b>                 |
| 8:05 p.m. | 12. | <b>Summary of Meeting Action Items</b> |
| 8:15 p.m. | 13. | <b>Adjournment</b>                     |

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

# **AGENDA ITEM 3**

**Approval of the August 24, 2026 Minutes**

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 25, 2026 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, August 25, 2026, 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, Rosemary Carroll (via Zoom), Rebie Hazard, John Perusek, Don Sabrowski, Hannah Cranor-Kersting, Joellen Fonken, Brooke Zanetell and Brian Stevens.

Board members absent: Camille Richard and Jeff Writer

Others present:

Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Program Director

Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager

Jules Iovino, UGRWCD Water Resources Fellow

Leon Katona, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel

Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Office/ Senior Program Manager

Ari Yamaguchi, UGRWCD Water Resources Specialist

Angela Miller, UGRWCD Administrative Specialist III

Tom Rozman, Colorado Division of Water Resources

Greg Peterson, Peterson Ranch

Kathleen Curry, Peterson Ranch

Robert Sakata, Department of Natural Resources (via Zoom)

Jesse Kruthaupt, Trout Unlimited (via Zoom)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There were nine board members present, which constitutes a quorum (six members).

**2. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME: ANGELA MILLER, ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST**

**3. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**Director Asay moved and Director Hazard seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried.**

#### **4. APPROVAL OF JULY 27, 2026 MINUTES**

**Director Fonken moved and Director Asay seconded approval of the July 27, 2026 Minutes. The motion carried.**

#### **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

- There is a bond coming due at the end of September. Staff will advise the Board on disposition of the bond.

#### **6. 2027 DRAFT BUDGET REVIEW**

- Most line items on the 2027 Draft Budget were initially increased by 5% from 2026.
- The Hazardous Waste Collection budget item increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000 due to costs of the program.
- In the Capital Outlay Expense line item, the 2027 planned amount is \$25,000, which includes \$15,000 for Phase 2 of the Xeriscaping project and \$10,000 for potential renovation of the Suite A office reception area.
- The Coal Creek Watershed Coalition line item has a \$7,000 placeholder. Staff recommend moving this under the water quality budget line item and prioritizing broadly applicable, high-priority TMDL-related sampling.
- The Taylor Park Project Expense line item of \$12,000 is the annual maintenance cost-share paid to the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users for Taylor Park Dam and this amount is adjusted every five years.
- Staff will meet with the Finance Committee to further refine the budget before the next board meeting.

#### **7. CDPHE UPDATE ON TWO-YEAR INTEGRATED REPORT – LEON KATONA**

- Presentation on impaired waters in the state and water quality in the Gunnison basin.
- 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and the two-year integrated study.
- Arsenic is commonly found in waters around the state including the Upper Gunnison basin and comes from natural background geologic sources.
- Colorado's 2024 Integrated Water Quality Report can be found at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/38204ef388f642a5b04089124d541b90>.
- The UGRWCD has a joint funding agreement with USGS to regularly monitor water quality and quantity in the Upper Gunnison basin. Results have shown that we have not had any statistically significant increases in any pollutant. Staff noted that this could change given drought conditions this year due to lack of water for dilution.

## **8. GENERAL COUNSEL UPDATE**

- The Record of Decision and 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead were released on Friday.
- Preferred alternative models Lake Powell releases of 5–12 million acre-feet/year; lower basin shortages up to 3.6 million acre-feet.
- Tiered Framework: August projections set release levels by Lake Powell elevation (high:  $\geq 3,565$  ft; mid: 3,540–3,565; low:  $< 3,540$ ).
- Monthly monitoring will be done to maintain 3,510 ft elevation.
- Upon release of the Record of Decision the state of Nevada filed a lawsuit. This was filed on Monday against Secretary of Interior alleging NEPA and APA non-compliance and seeks injunction on 2027-2028 framework operations.
- If enjoined, operations will likely revert to 1970 long range operating criteria (minimum 8.23 MAF release; lower basin shortages capped at 600K acre-feet).
- Compact Risk: The Upper Basin's 10-year average delivery is approximately 84 million acre-feet as of end of 2025; prolonged litigation could erode this.
- The Bureau of Reclamation is making \$100 million available to the Upper Division States through the Upper Colorado River Commission to support conservation and contribution activities beginning in water year 2027.
- The Board discussed the initial draft criteria for participation in the contribution program prepared by CWCB staff.

## **9. BASIN WATER SUPPLY UPDATE**

- Blue Mesa Reservoir is dropping approximately 1% per day and is projected to reach minimum power pool by end of 2026. Current releases are at 1,240 cfs versus approximately 500 cfs inflows.
- Inflows for the month of August into Taylor Reservoir were 1,800 cfs which is less than the CBRFC forecasted 4,000 cfs for the month of August. The TLUG group has reduced releases out of the reservoir to 100 cfs starting August 17 through 30th, then to 75 cfs on August 31<sup>st</sup> where it will remain through the month of September. On October 1, flows will be reduced to 55 cfs where it will remain through the winter.
- Target end-of-season storage content: 50,000 acre-feet which is below the target of 60,000 acre-feet as per the stipulation. For background on end of year storage during significant drought years, end of year storage in 2002 was 42,000 AF and it took several years to recover.
- Fish spawning flows must remain consistent during spawning periods and further reductions are not feasible at this time.

- Forecasters are saying that there is a 90% chance of a strong El Nino event in fall/winter 2026–27, but precise precipitation amounts remain uncertain for the Upper Gunnison Basin.

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

- Fund Raising - Contracts are now in place with the Colorado Water Conservation Board for Water Supply Reserve Funding and with the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership in support of the following projects:
  - Cain Borsum Ag Irrigation Diversion Improvement with Fish Passage,
  - South Krueger and Moran Irrigation Diversion Improvement with Fish Passage
  - Cement Creek Irrigation Diversion Improvement & Stream Restoration
  - Lower Woodcock Cochetopa Creek Stream Restoration
  - Sargents No.2 Irrigation Improvement & Stream Restoration
  - Tingley Ditch Irrigation Diversion Improvement & Stream Restoration
- The District is working with the Gunnison Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Services, and Trout Unlimited to develop a Targeted Conservation Proposal (TCP) for the Ohio Creek Sub-basin.
- Colorado River District (CRD) East River Basin Tour was held on August 5. This was a tour of the same sites toured by the CWCB.
- The District is still monitoring ongoing wildfires in the area. The Elk Fire is currently at 7,200 acres and 35% containment. Staff are working with representatives in Hinsdale County and the Town of Lake City on plans related to post-wildfire water quality and quantity monitoring.
- Forest & Watershed Health Work Session Planning – No progress to date, but staff will report back to the board as soon as we have a template and speakers identified.

## **11. DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Directors provided comments about water issues in their divisions

## **12. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

- Board and staff provided an update on the Colorado Water Congress Summer Conference Items of discussion at the conference included: Forest restoration, drought impacts on local economies and Colorado Ag Water Alliance drought resilience projects.

## **13. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

No citizen comments.

#### **14. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Future meetings for the District were provided.

#### **15. SUMMARY OF REGULAR MEETING ACTION ITEMS**

- Staff will compile board input on conservation program criteria to CWCB before September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff will share CDPHE Integrated Water Quality report links with full board.
- Beverly Richards will schedule a future cloud seeding presentation for the full Board.
- Staff will assist with outreach for October 13-14 drill seeder workshop via social media.
- Sonja Chavez will attend City Council meeting being held on Thursday, August 27 where they will discuss the Gunnison wastewater treatment project and will raise CPW fishery consultation questions from Director Zanetell.
- Staff will share Greg Powers (Division 4 Water Commissioner) contact with Director Fonken.
- Sonja will follow up with Representative Hurd's office to formalize a board visit.
- Sonja will draft comments on CWCB criteria for contribution program.

#### **16. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Don Sabrowski adjourned the August 24, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rebie Hazard, Secretary

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Don Sabrowski, President

# **AGENDA ITEM 4**

## **Treasurer's Report**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Board of Directors

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

**DATE:** August 24, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Treasurer's Report – August 2026

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### A. ColoTrust Update (September 16, 2026)

*The Federal Reserve raised interest rates by 25 basis points, signaling that policymakers believe the persistence of inflationary pressures warrants a modestly less accommodative monetary policy stance. The move reflects a growing recognition that, with the labor market remaining relatively balanced, the risk of allowing inflation to remain above target may now outweigh the risk of modestly tighter policy.*

### B. Investments

Interest earnings on investment have been strong in 2026. The budget estimate was \$110,000 and as of August 31, earnings are \$162,740.

UGRWCD has two remaining investments maturing in 2026:

- LPL bond on 09.30.2026 for \$160,000 at 1.0 percent interest rate. Additional options for reinvestment will be researched by management and Treasurer.
- CD on 11.20.26 for \$105,015.89 at 4.01 percent interest. Additional options for reinvestment will be researched by management and Treasurer.

C. August Financial Information

1. Consideration of Expenses over \$5,000

| <b>Payee</b>                   | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Budget Line Item / Purpose</b>                  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Airborne Snow Observatories    | \$8,875.00    | Taylor River Modeling                              |
| Coal Creek Watershed Coalition | \$12,318.02   | Coal Creek Watershed Coalition –<br>Water Sampling |
| Mountain Crest Construction    | \$9,742.84    | Spencer Unit A Reno – Deck<br>Construction         |
| Summit Landscaping             | \$8,849.24    | Xeriscaping – Phase 2                              |
| Trout Unlimited                | \$10,489.50   | Consulting/Engineering                             |

2. Monthly Budget Summary

The items highlighted in the **monthly expenses for approval** are budget line items of note for August.

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Monthly Budget Summary 2026**

**RETURN TO AGENDA**

|                                 | Aug 26            | YTD 2026            | 2026 Budget         | % of Budget   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense         |                   |                     |                     |               |
| Income                          |                   |                     |                     |               |
| Regional Water Supply Income    | 67,317.68         | 311,093.68          | 438,546.00          | 70.94%        |
| Watershed Impl Outside Grants   | 0.00              | 8,193.07            | 116,800.00          | 7.02%         |
| Asp Water Sales                 | 338.88            | 28,834.07           | 27,000.00           | 106.79%       |
| Rent Income                     | 3,300.00          | 26,275.00           | 40,000.00           | 65.69%        |
| Interest Income                 | 30,084.27         | 162,740.51          | 110,000.00          | 147.95%       |
| Property Tax Income             | 110,269.47        | 2,204,248.46        | 2,333,749.00        | 94.45%        |
| Reimbursed Exp Income           | 0.00              | 0.00                | 45,500.00           | 0.0%          |
| Watershed Mgmt Income           | 0.00              | 8,751.00            | 105,921.00          | 8.26%         |
| Wet Meadows Income              | 0.00              | 80,106.84           | 349,187.00          | 22.94%        |
| WQ Monitoring Inc               | 0.00              | 36,531.00           | 36,697.00           | 99.55%        |
| Additional Contribution Reserve | 0.00              | 0.00                | 474,424.00          | 0.0%          |
| Miscellaneous Income            | 0.00              | 10,000.00           |                     |               |
| <b>Total Income</b>             | <b>211,310.30</b> | <b>2,876,773.63</b> | <b>4,077,824.00</b> | <b>70.55%</b> |
| Expense                         |                   |                     |                     |               |
| Op X                            |                   |                     |                     |               |
| Admin.Travel & Exp.             | 2,938.17          | 13,849.49           | 36,750.00           | 37.69%        |
| Audit Expense                   | 0.00              | 13,000.00           | 25,000.00           | 52.0%         |
| Accounting & Professional Fees  | 3,630.00          | 36,187.48           | 48,500.00           | 74.61%        |
| BOD Expenses                    | 950.06            | 6,686.75            | 15,750.00           | 42.46%        |
| BOD Mileage                     | 163.87            | 1,791.36            | 5,775.00            | 31.02%        |
| BOD Mtg Fees                    | 1,200.00          | 10,220.90           | 26,400.00           | 38.72%        |
| Bonding and Insurance           | 0.00              | 23,034.97           | 30,000.00           | 76.78%        |
| Building Rep/Maint              | 2,500.00          | 3,077.00            | 10,000.00           | 30.77%        |
| CAM                             | 93.77             | 2,581.70            | 7,500.00            | 34.42%        |
| Computer Exp                    | 2,389.62          | 29,791.05           | 40,500.00           | 73.56%        |
| Copier Expenses                 | 469.61            | 2,314.21            | 7,000.00            | 33.06%        |
| County Treasurers' Fees         | 3,028.96          | 64,789.57           | 75,000.00           | 86.39%        |
| Spencer Bldg Reserve Contrib    | 0.00              | 10,000.00           | 10,000.00           | 100.0%        |
| Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions | 251.73            | 12,208.50           | 18,350.00           | 66.53%        |
| Legal Publication               | 147.42            | 2,456.43            | 5,000.00            | 49.13%        |
| Manager's Discretionary         | 0.00              | 13,256.57           | 25,000.00           | 53.03%        |
| Meeting Expenses                | 1,592.43          | 6,180.44            | 5,000.00            | 123.61%       |
| Office Cleaning                 | 787.50            | 5,501.25            | 8,000.00            | 68.77%        |
| Office Supplies & Misc Expenses | 591.57            | 7,900.99            | 12,000.00           | 65.84%        |
| Payroll Exp                     | 86,639.90         | 706,005.23          | 1,140,000.00        | 61.93%        |
| Postage                         | 0.00              | 372.60              | 2,000.00            | 18.63%        |
| Telephone                       | 1,265.16          | 3,496.36            | 6,000.00            | 58.27%        |
| Utilities                       | 615.42            | 4,744.04            | 10,000.00           | 47.44%        |
| Vehicle Expense                 | 584.45            | 5,709.41            | 29,500.00           | 19.35%        |
| <b>Total Op X</b>               | <b>109,839.64</b> | <b>985,156.30</b>   | <b>1,599,025.00</b> | <b>61.61%</b> |
| Non-Op X                        |                   |                     |                     |               |
| Watershed Impl Outside Grant Ex | 1,118.26          | 9,095.08            | 116,800.00          | 7.79%         |
| Aquatice Nuisance Species       | 0.00              | 0.00                | 20,000.00           | 0.0%          |
| Asp Subordination Report        | 0.00              | 6,255.00            | 7,500.00            | 83.4%         |
| Aspinall Contract Costs         | 288.88            | 24,967.90           | 24,000.00           | 104.03%       |
| Gunnison County Hazardous Waste | 0.00              | 0.00                | 2,000.00            | 0.0%          |
| Consulting/Engineering          | 13,743.75         | 27,311.75           | 50,000.00           | 54.62%        |
| Coal Creek Watershed Coalition  | 12,318.02         | 12,318.02           | 17,000.00           | 72.46%        |
| Dust on Snowpack                | 0.00              | 3,500.00            | 3,500.00            | 100.0%        |

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**  
**Monthly Budget Summary 2026**

|                                     |                   |                     |                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Grant Program                       | 0.00              | 71,181.13           | 446,420.00          | 15.95%        |
| Gunnison Conservation District      | 0.00              | 0.00                | 10,000.00           | 0.0%          |
| Gunnison River Festival             | 0.00              | 13,000.00           | 13,000.00           | 100.0%        |
| Endanger Fish Recovery Program      | 0.00              | 3,750.00            | 3,750.00            | 100.0%        |
| Lake Fork Conservancy               | 4,248.59          | 4,248.59            | 10,000.00           | 42.49%        |
| LSC Expenses                        | 0.00              | 13,464.00           | 13,464.00           | 100.0%        |
| Public Outreach                     | 2,940.22          | 51,857.54           | 70,430.00           | 73.63%        |
| Regional Water Supply Imp. Exp.     | 8,875.00          | 293,214.50          | 797,127.00          | 36.78%        |
| Strategic Planning                  | 0.00              | 43,233.61           | 61,500.00           | 70.3%         |
| Taylor Park Projects Exp            | 0.00              | 12,000.00           | 8,200.00            | 146.34%       |
| Watershed Mgmt X                    | 882.00            | 3,195.75            | 105,921.00          | 3.02%         |
| Wet Meadow X                        | 5,340.69          | 60,702.94           | 359,187.00          | 16.9%         |
| WQ Monitoring                       | 0.00              | 78,819.50           | 250,000.00          | 31.53%        |
| <b>Total Non-Op X</b>               | <b>49,755.41</b>  | <b>732,115.31</b>   | <b>2,389,799.00</b> | <b>30.64%</b> |
| Capital Outlay Expense              |                   |                     |                     |               |
| Xeriscaping                         | 10,935.07         | 12,288.88           | 25,000.00           | 49.16%        |
| Spencer Unit A Reno                 | 9,742.84          | 9,742.84            | 40,000.00           | 24.36%        |
| <b>Total Capital Outlay Expense</b> | <b>20,677.91</b>  | <b>22,031.72</b>    | <b>65,000.00</b>    | <b>33.9%</b>  |
| Contingency                         | 0.00              | 0.00                | 24,000.00           | 0.0%          |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                | <b>180,272.96</b> | <b>1,739,303.33</b> | <b>4,077,824.00</b> | <b>42.65%</b> |
| Net Ordinary Income                 | 31,037.34         | 1,137,470.30        | 0.00                | 100.0%        |
| <b>Net Income</b>                   | <b>31,037.34</b>  | <b>1,137,470.30</b> | <b>0.00</b>         | <b>100.0%</b> |

2:01 PM  
09/18/26  
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
August 2026

| Date                                                  | Name                                    | Account                         | Amount   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 5B's BBQ<br>08/31/2026                                | 5B's BBQ                                | 82530 · Meeting Expenses        | 561.36   |
| Total 5B's BBQ                                        |                                         |                                 | 561.36   |
| Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc.<br>08/31/2026       | Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc.       | Airborne Snow Observatory Fligh | 8,875.00 |
| Total Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc.               |                                         |                                 | 8,875.00 |
| Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.<br>08/31/2026 | Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. | 85402E · TNC 02-2025 UGRWCD...  | 1,287.35 |
| Total Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.         |                                         |                                 | 1,287.35 |
| Alpine Surveying, Inc.<br>08/31/2026                  | Alpine Surveying, Inc.                  | 81520 · Consulting/Engineering  | 3,060.00 |
| Total Alpine Surveying, Inc.                          |                                         |                                 | 3,060.00 |
| Anthem<br>08/01/2026                                  | Anthem                                  | 74166 · Medical Insurance       | 407.41   |
| Total Anthem                                          |                                         |                                 | 407.41   |
| Applegate Group, Inc.<br>08/31/2026                   | Applegate Group, Inc.                   | 81520 · Consulting/Engineering  | 1,076.25 |
| Total Applegate Group, Inc.                           |                                         |                                 | 1,076.25 |
| Arnie Butler and Associates, Inc.                     |                                         |                                 |          |

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09/18/26  
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
August 2026

| Date                                    | Name                              | Account                    | Amount   |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 08/31/2026                              | Arnie Butler and Associates, Inc. | 84552 · Building Rep/Maint | 2,500.00 |
| Total Arnie Butler and Associates, Inc. |                                   |                            | 2,500.00 |
| Atmos Energy                            |                                   |                            |          |
| 08/31/2026                              | Atmos Energy                      | Utilities - Unit A         | 50.85    |
| Total Atmos Energy                      |                                   |                            | 50.85    |
| Beverly Richards                        |                                   |                            |          |
| 08/01/2026                              | Beverly Richards                  | 74166 · Medical Insurance  | 202.90   |
| Total Beverly Richards                  |                                   |                            | 202.90   |
| Brian Stevens                           |                                   |                            |          |
| 08/31/2026                              | Brian Stevens                     | 81602 · BOD Mtg Fees       | 100.00   |
| Total Brian Stevens                     |                                   |                            | 100.00   |
| Brooke Zanatell BOD                     |                                   |                            |          |
| 08/31/2026                              | Brooke Zanatell BOD               | 81602 · BOD Mtg Fees       | 200.00   |
| Total Brooke Zanatell BOD               |                                   |                            | 200.00   |
| Capital Business Systems, Inc.          |                                   |                            |          |
| 08/01/2026                              | Capital Business Systems, Inc.    | 80541 · Copier Expenses    | 469.61   |
| Total Capital Business Systems, Inc.    |                                   |                            | 469.61   |
| CEBT                                    |                                   |                            |          |
| 08/01/2026                              | CEBT                              | 74166 · Medical Insurance  | 4,510.54 |

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Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
August 2026

| Date                             | Name                       | Account                            | Amount    |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total CEBT                       |                            |                                    | 4,510.54  |
| Chase - United Credit Card       |                            |                                    |           |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | Vehicle Expense                    | 442.47    |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | Vehicle Expense                    | 123.98    |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 81558 · Computer Software          | 263.25    |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 80557 · Office Supplies & Misc ... | 525.61    |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 82556K · Miscellaneous Subscri...  | 19.99     |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | GRF Receivable                     | 424.20    |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 85402G · Wet Meadows Miscel...     | 1,555.86  |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 85402E · TNC 02-2025 UGRWCD...     | 1,751.74  |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 85402A · FWS Sage Brush Ecosy...   | 506.81    |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 85402C · AtBC #2024-3842           | 53.46     |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.        | 3,200.21  |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 74180 · Staff Development          | 90.00     |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 81600 · BOD Expenses               | 169.49    |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 82530 · Meeting Expenses           | 1,031.07  |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 80513C · School and Educatio...    | 851.78    |
| 08/31/2026                       | Chase - United Credit Card | 74180 · Staff Development          | 188.09    |
| Total Chase - United Credit Card |                            |                                    | 11,198.01 |
| City of Gunnison                 |                            |                                    |           |
| 08/31/2026                       | City of Gunnison           | Utilities - Unit A                 | 85.65     |
| 08/31/2026                       | City of Gunnison           | Utilities - Unit A                 | 295.58    |
| 08/31/2026                       | City of Gunnison           | Utilities - Unit A                 | 132.10    |
| 08/31/2026                       | City of Gunnison           | Utilities - Unit A                 | 51.24     |
| Total City of Gunnison           |                            |                                    | 564.57    |
| Coal Creek Watershed Coalition   |                            |                                    |           |

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Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
August 2026

| Date                                 | Name                           | Account                            | Amount    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 08/31/2026                           | Coal Creek Watershed Coalition | 85407 · Coal Creek Watershed ...   | 12,318.02 |
| Total Coal Creek Watershed Coalition |                                |                                    | 12,318.02 |
| CTSTelecom                           |                                |                                    |           |
| 08/18/2026                           | CTSTelecom                     | 81543 · Computer Repair/IT Su...   | 271.95    |
| Total CTSTelecom                     |                                |                                    | 271.95    |
| Don Sabrowski BOD                    |                                |                                    |           |
| 08/31/2026                           | Don Sabrowski BOD              | 81602 · BOD Mtg Fees               | 200.00    |
| 08/31/2026                           | Don Sabrowski BOD              | 81601 · BOD Mileage                | 48.64     |
| Total Don Sabrowski BOD              |                                |                                    | 248.64    |
| Fullmer's Ace Hardware               |                                |                                    |           |
| 08/31/2026                           | Fullmer's Ace Hardware         | 85402A · FWS Sage Brush Ecosy...   | 28.98     |
| 08/31/2026                           | Fullmer's Ace Hardware         | 80557 · Office Supplies & Misc ... | 5.99      |
| 08/31/2026                           | Fullmer's Ace Hardware         | 85402C · AtBC #2024-3842           | 119.97    |
| 08/31/2026                           | Fullmer's Ace Hardware         | 80557 · Office Supplies & Misc ... | 45.97     |
| Total Fullmer's Ace Hardware         |                                |                                    | 200.91    |
| Golden Eagle Trash Service           |                                |                                    |           |
| 08/31/2026                           | Golden Eagle Trash Service     | 84550 · CAM                        | 93.77     |
| Total Golden Eagle Trash Service     |                                |                                    | 93.77     |
| Gunnison Bank and Trust              |                                |                                    |           |
| 08/10/2026                           | Gunnison Bank and Trust        | 80517 · Accounting & Professio...  | 5.00      |
| 08/13/2026                           | Gunnison Bank and Trust        | 80517 · Accounting & Professio...  | 5.00      |

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Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
August 2026

| Date                          | Name                | Account                   | Amount |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| Total Gunnison Bank and Trust |                     |                           | 10.00  |
| Hannah Cranor - BOD           |                     |                           |        |
| 08/31/2026                    | Hannah Cranor - BOD | 81600 · BOD Expenses      | 400.00 |
| 08/31/2026                    | Hannah Cranor - BOD | 81601 · BOD Mileage       | 11.08  |
| Total Hannah Cranor - BOD     |                     |                           | 411.08 |
| Humana                        |                     |                           |        |
| 08/01/2026                    | Humana              | 74166 · Medical Insurance | 94.00  |
| Total Humana                  |                     |                           | 94.00  |
| Ink River Design              |                     |                           |        |
| 08/31/2026                    | Ink River Design    | Vehicle Expense           | 6.00   |
| 08/31/2026                    | Ink River Design    | Vehicle Expense           | 12.00  |
| Total Ink River Design        |                     |                           | 18.00  |
| Joellen Fonken BOD            |                     |                           |        |
| 08/31/2026                    | Joellen Fonken BOD  | 81602 · BOD Mtg Fees      | 100.00 |
| 08/31/2026                    | Joellen Fonken BOD  | 81601 · BOD Mileage       | 7.60   |
| Total Joellen Fonken BOD      |                     |                           | 107.60 |
| John McClow                   |                     |                           |        |
| 08/01/2026                    | John McClow         | 74166 · Medical Insurance | 202.90 |
| Total John McClow             |                     |                           | 202.90 |
| John Perusek                  |                     |                           |        |

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Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
August 2026

| Date                               | Name                         | Account                           | Amount   |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 08/31/2026                         | John Perusek                 | 81600 · BOD Expenses              | 380.57   |
| Total John Perusek                 |                              |                                   | 380.57   |
| John Perusek BOD                   |                              |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                         | John Perusek BOD             | 81602 · BOD Mtg Fees              | 200.00   |
| Total John Perusek BOD             |                              |                                   | 200.00   |
| KEJJ Radio                         |                              |                                   |          |
| 08/18/2026                         | KEJJ Radio                   | 80513A · Advertising Radio & N... | 325.00   |
| Total KEJJ Radio                   |                              |                                   | 325.00   |
| KVLE - Bobcat Radio                |                              |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                         | KVLE - Bobcat Radio          | 80513A · Advertising Radio & N... | 275.00   |
| Total KVLE - Bobcat Radio          |                              |                                   | 275.00   |
| Lake Fork Valley Conservancy       |                              |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                         | Lake Fork Valley Conservancy | 84546 · Lake Fork Conservancy     | 4,248.59 |
| Total Lake Fork Valley Conservancy |                              |                                   | 4,248.59 |
| LexisNexis                         |                              |                                   |          |
| 08/01/2026                         | LexisNexis                   | 82556J · Lexis Nexis              | 756.74   |
| Total LexisNexis                   |                              |                                   | 756.74   |
| Melinda McCawmedia                 |                              |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                         | Melinda McCawmedia           | CWCB PEPO 2025-2026 Expense       | 82.51    |

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Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
August 2026

| Date                                   | Name                             | Account                           | Amount   |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Total Melinda McCawmedia               |                                  |                                   | 82.51    |
| Mountain Crest Construction, LLC       |                                  |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                             | Mountain Crest Construction, LLC | Spencer Unit A Reno               | 9,742.84 |
| Total Mountain Crest Construction, LLC |                                  |                                   | 9,742.84 |
| New Morning Improvement, LLC           |                                  |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                             | New Morning Improvement, LLC     | Office Cleaning                   | 787.50   |
| Total New Morning Improvement, LLC     |                                  |                                   | 787.50   |
| O'Rourke Media Group                   |                                  |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                             | O'Rourke Media Group             | 80513A · Advertising Radio & N... | 613.44   |
| 08/31/2026                             | O'Rourke Media Group             | 80548 · Legal Publication         | 147.42   |
| Total O'Rourke Media Group             |                                  |                                   | 760.86   |
| Pinnacol Assurance                     |                                  |                                   |          |
| 08/01/2026                             | Pinnacol Assurance               | 74200 · Work Comp Ins             | 782.00   |
| Total Pinnacol Assurance               |                                  |                                   | 782.00   |
| QuickBooks                             |                                  |                                   |          |
| 08/01/2026                             | QuickBooks                       | 81558 · Computer Software         | 100.00   |
| 08/18/2026                             | QuickBooks                       | 81558 · Computer Software         | 27.00    |
| Total QuickBooks                       |                                  |                                   | 127.00   |
| Rebie Hazard-BOD                       |                                  |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                             | Rebie Hazard-BOD                 | 81602 · BOD Mtg Fees              | 200.00   |

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Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
August 2026

| Date                          | Name                    | Account                           | Amount   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 08/31/2026                    | Rebie Hazard-BOD        | 81601 · BOD Mileage               | 89.71    |
| Total Rebie Hazard-BOD        |                         |                                   | 289.71   |
| Rosemary Carroll - BOD        |                         |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                    | Rosemary Carroll - BOD  | 81602 · BOD Mtg Fees              | 100.00   |
| Total Rosemary Carroll - BOD  |                         |                                   | 100.00   |
| Silicon Plains                |                         |                                   |          |
| 08/01/2026                    | Silicon Plains          | 81543 · Computer Repair/IT Su...  | 800.00   |
| 08/17/2026                    | Silicon Plains          | 81543 · Computer Repair/IT Su...  | 800.00   |
| Total Silicon Plains          |                         |                                   | 1,600.00 |
| Silver World Publishing       |                         |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                    | Silver World Publishing | 80513A · Advertising Radio & N... | 80.00    |
| Total Silver World Publishing |                         |                                   | 80.00    |
| Sonja Chavez                  |                         |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                    | Sonja Chavez            | 80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.       | 262.96   |
| Total Sonja Chavez            |                         |                                   | 262.96   |
| Stuart Asay - BOD             |                         |                                   |          |
| 08/31/2026                    | Stuart Asay - BOD       | 81602 · BOD Mtg Fees              | 100.00   |
| 08/31/2026                    | Stuart Asay - BOD       | 81601 · BOD Mileage               | 6.84     |
| Total Stuart Asay - BOD       |                         |                                   | 106.84   |
| Summit Landscapes LLC         |                         |                                   |          |

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Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
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| Date                           | Name                       | Account                            | Amount    |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 08/31/2026                     | Summit Landscapes LLC      | Xeriscaping                        | 624.54    |
| 08/31/2026                     | Summit Landscapes LLC      | Xeriscaping                        | 1,461.28  |
| 08/31/2026                     | Summit Landscapes LLC      | Xeriscaping                        | 8,849.25  |
| Total Summit Landscapes LLC    |                            |                                    | 10,935.07 |
| Sunshine Creatives             |                            |                                    |           |
| 08/31/2026                     | Sunshine Creatives         | 80513B · General Public Outre...   | 795.00    |
| 08/31/2026                     | Sunshine Creatives         | CWCB PEPO 2025-2026 Expense        | 1,035.75  |
| Total Sunshine Creatives       |                            |                                    | 1,830.75  |
| The Paper Clip                 |                            |                                    |           |
| 08/31/2026                     | The Paper Clip             | 80557 · Office Supplies & Misc ... | 14.00     |
| Total The Paper Clip           |                            |                                    | 14.00     |
| Thomas N Stoeber, CPA          |                            |                                    |           |
| 08/31/2026                     | Thomas N Stoeber, CPA      | 80517 · Accounting & Professio...  | 3,620.00  |
| Total Thomas N Stoeber, CPA    |                            |                                    | 3,620.00  |
| Trout Unlimited - Vendor       |                            |                                    |           |
| 08/31/2026                     | Trout Unlimited - Vendor   | CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase 3)       | 882.00    |
| 08/31/2026                     | Trout Unlimited - Vendor   | 81520 · Consulting/Engineering     | 9,607.50  |
| Total Trout Unlimited - Vendor |                            |                                    | 10,489.50 |
| U.S. Bureau of Reclamation     |                            |                                    |           |
| 08/31/2026                     | U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | 84557 · Aspinall Contract Costs    | 288.88    |

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Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
August 2026

| Date                             | Name                | Account                          | Amount    |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Total U.S. Bureau of Reclamation |                     |                                  | 288.88    |
| UnitedHealthcare                 |                     |                                  |           |
| 08/01/2026                       | UnitedHealthcare    | 74166 · Medical Insurance        | 151.90    |
| Total UnitedHealthcare           |                     |                                  | 151.90    |
| Verizon Wireless                 |                     |                                  |           |
| 08/31/2026                       | Verizon Wireless    | 80534 · Telephone                | 1,265.16  |
| Total Verizon Wireless           |                     |                                  | 1,265.16  |
| Visionary Broadband              |                     |                                  |           |
| 08/01/2026                       | Visionary Broadband | 81556 · Internet                 | 127.42    |
| Total Visionary Broadband        |                     |                                  | 127.42    |
| Western Lumber                   |                     |                                  |           |
| 08/31/2026                       | Western Lumber      | 85402A · FWS Sage Brush Ecosy... | 36.52     |
| Total Western Lumber             |                     |                                  | 36.52     |
| TOTAL                            |                     |                                  | 98,708.04 |

# RETURN TO AGENDA

| UGRWCD                                                  | Instrument    | Balance                | Cost                   | Interest      | Maturity   | Date      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| Account Name: LPL Government and Agency Bonds           | Type          | 8/31/2026              | Basis                  | Rate          | Date       | Callable  |
| LPL Bond 26 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130APBE4                      | BOND          | 159,602.56             | 160,000.00             | 1.000%        | 9/30/2026  | 3/30/2025 |
| LPL Bond 34 (FAMC) CUSIP 31424WN99                      | BOND          | 390,750.80             | 400,000.00             | 4.040%        | 8/12/2030  | 8/12/2027 |
| LPL Bond 35 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130B7X90                      | BOND          | 293,868.30             | 300,000.00             | 4.150%        | 10/8/2030  | 10/8/2026 |
| LPL Bond 36 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130B9GN4                      | Bond          | 389,606.40             | 400,000.00             | 4.000%        | 2/19/2031  | 2/19/2027 |
| LPL Bond 37 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130B9Y46                      | Bond          | 248,435.50             | 250,000.00             | 4.000%        | 3/24/2028  | 9/24/2026 |
| US Treasury Note (CPN) CUSIP 91282CQD6                  | Treasury Note | 288,187.50             | 300,000.00             | 3.960%        | 2/28/2031  | N/A       |
| US Treasury Note (CPN) CUSIP 91282CPL9                  | Treasury Note | 296,718.60             | 300,000.00             | 4.020%        | 11/30/2027 | N/A       |
| <b>LPL BOND SUBTOTAL:</b>                               |               | <b>\$ 2,067,169.66</b> | <b>\$ 2,110,000.00</b> | <b>3.596%</b> |            |           |
| Account Name: LPL Certificates of Deposit               |               |                        |                        |               |            |           |
| LPL 31 Morgan Stanley Bank CD CUSIP 61690D4C9           | CD            | 220,082.28             | 220,000.00             | 4.050%        | 5/7/2027   |           |
| LPL 32 Morgan Stanley PVT Bank CD CUSIP 61776NSJ3       | CD            | 244,835.11             | 245,000.00             | 4.150%        | 5/22/2028  |           |
| LPL 33 Toyota Financial Savings Bank CD CUSIP 89235MSK8 | CD            | 244,633.48             | 245,000.00             | 4.100%        | 5/22/2028  |           |
| <b>LPL CD SUBTOTAL:</b>                                 |               | <b>\$ 709,550.87</b>   | <b>\$ 710,000.00</b>   | <b>4.100%</b> |            |           |
| Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings                 |               |                        |                        |               |            |           |
| LPL Money Market Savings Account                        | M.M. SAVINGS  | 26,515.06              | N/A                    | 0.900%        | N/A        |           |
| <b>LPL MM SUBTOTAL:</b>                                 |               | <b>\$ 26,515.06</b>    |                        |               |            |           |

|                                                              | INSTRUMENT | Balance                | Cost       | Interest          | Maturity   |                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Account Name                                                 | TYPE       | 8/31/2026              | Basis      | Rate              | 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         | 234,334.10             | 200,000.00 | 4.00%             | 2/26/2030  |                             |
| Gunnison Bank & Trust CD 26831                               | CD         | 254,756.65             | 250,000.00 | 3.90%             | 1/22/2030  |                             |
| Gunnison Bank & Trust CD 26832                               | CD         | 254,756.65             | 250,000.00 | 3.90%             | 1/22/2030  |                             |
| 10540 Gunnison Bank & Trust MM - Spencer Building Acct. 3589 | CHKG       | 29,379.90              | N/A        | 0.50%             | N/A        |                             |
| Gunnison Bank & Trust 8756                                   | CHKG       | 32,044.88              | N/A        | 0.05%             | N/A        |                             |
|                                                              |            |                        |            | Average Mo. Yield |            |                             |
| COLOTRUST PLUS 8001                                          | COLO.      | 2,409,581.90           | N/A        | 3.82%             | N/A        |                             |
| COLOTRUST PLUS UGRWCD EHOP 8003                              | COLO.      | 113,662.40             | N/A        | 3.82%             | N/A        |                             |
| COLOTRUST PLUS SPENCER BUILDING 8005                         | COLO.      | 150,432.70             | N/A        | 3.82%             | N/A        |                             |
| COLOTRUST PRIME 4001                                         | COLO.      | 6,745.10               | N/A        | 3.56%             | N/A        |                             |
| 10200 Petty Cash                                             | PETTY      | 100.00                 |            |                   |            |                             |
| <b>MISCELLANEOUS BANK &amp; COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:</b>          |            | <b>\$ 3,595,022.58</b> |            |                   |            |                             |
| <b>TOTAL UGRWCD</b>                                          |            | <b>\$ 6,398,258.17</b> |            |                   |            |                             |

| UGRWAE                                              | INSTRUMENT   | Balance              | Cost          | Interest | Maturity  | Date      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Account Name                                        | TYPE         | 8/31/2026            | Basis         | Rate     | Date      | Callable  |
| LPL Bond CUSIP 31424WK43 (FAMC)                     | Bond         | 295,017.90           | 300,000.00    | 4.26%    | 7/16/2030 | 7/16/2027 |
| Gunnison Bank & Trust 26814                         | CD           | 257,061.53           | \$ 250,000.00 | 3.99%    | 12/4/2029 |           |
| Gunnison Bank & Trust 8764                          | CHKG         | 54,978.43            |               | 0.05%    |           |           |
| COLOTRUST PLUS 8002                                 | COLO.        | 229,699.14           |               | 3.82%    | N/A       |           |
| <b>MISCELLANEOUS BANK &amp; COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:</b> |              | <b>\$ 836,757.00</b> |               |          |           |           |
| Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings             |              |                      |               |          |           |           |
| LPL Money Market Savings Account                    | M.M. SAVINGS | 12,782.66            | -             | 0.250%   | N/A       |           |
| <b>LPL MM SUBTOTAL:</b>                             |              | <b>\$ 12,782.66</b>  |               |          |           |           |
| <b>TOTAL UGRWAE</b>                                 |              | <b>\$ 849,539.66</b> |               |          |           |           |

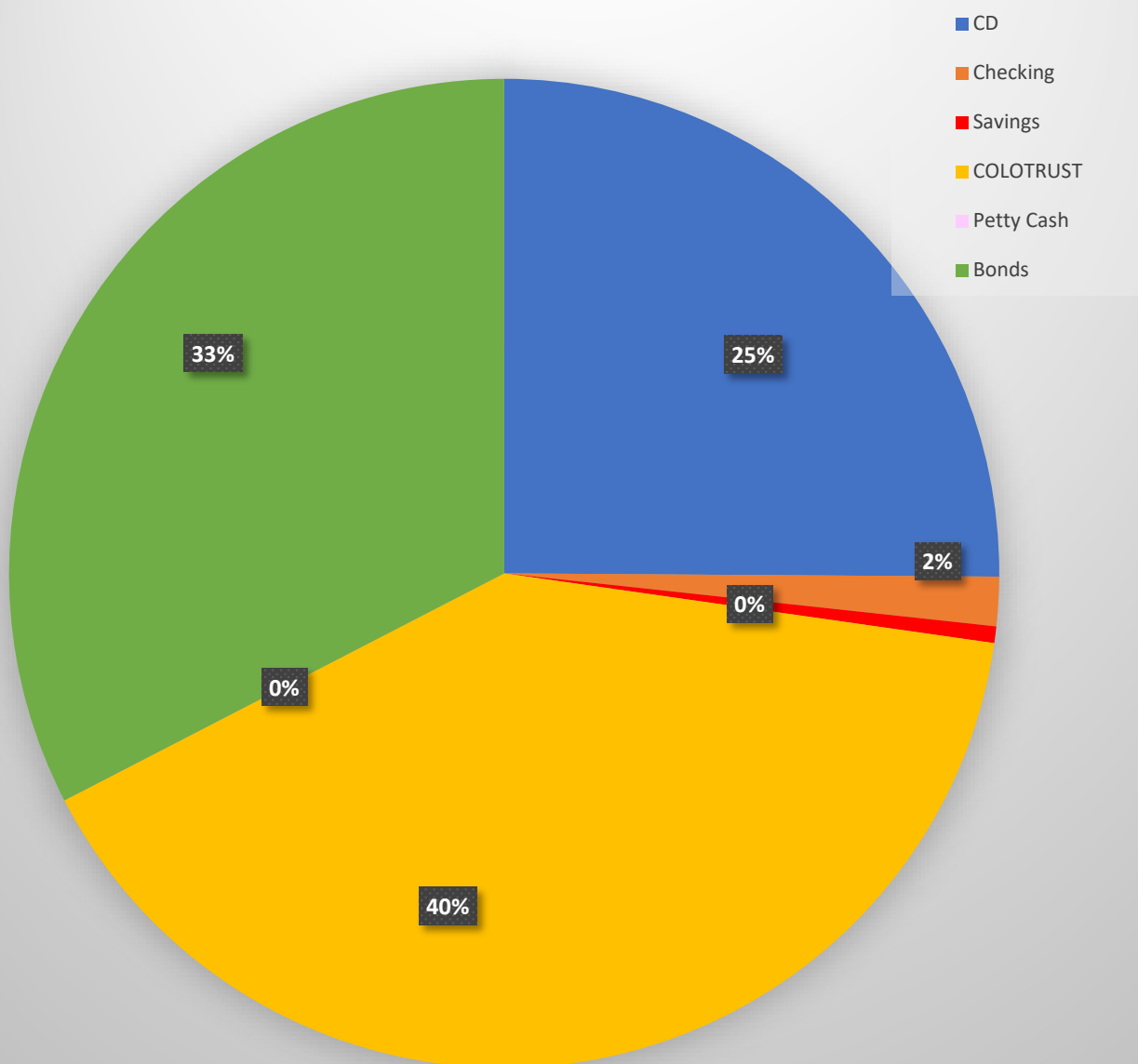
|                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE</b> | <b>\$ 7,247,797.83</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|

| Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE by Bank               | Total UGRWCD & UGRWAE by Investment Type |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| LPL Financial \$ 3,111,036.15 43%             | CD 25% 1,819,688.10                      |
| Community Banks of Colo. 109,228.30 2%        | Checking 2% 116,403.21                   |
| Gunnison Bank & Trust 1,117,312.14 15%        | Savings 1% 39,297.72                     |
| COLOTRUST 2,910,121.24 40%                    | COLOTRUST 40% 2,910,121.24               |
| Petty Cash 100.00 0%                          | Petty Cash 0% 100.00                     |
| <b>TOTAL ALL SOURCES \$ 7,247,797.83 100%</b> | Bonds 33% \$ 2,362,187.56                |
|                                               | <b>Total 100% \$ 7,247,797.83</b>        |

### UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

|              |             |           |                     |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|
| CD           | 25%         | \$        | 1,819,688.10        |
| Checking     | 2%          | \$        | 116,403.21          |
| Savings      | 1%          | \$        | 39,297.72           |
| COLOTRUST    | 40%         | \$        | 2,910,121.24        |
| Petty Cash   | 0%          | \$        | 100.00              |
| Bonds        | 33%         | \$        | 2,362,187.56        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>7,247,797.83</b> |

### UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

## **General Counsel Update**



## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

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

September 9, 2026

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Attention: Board of Directors  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Transmitted Via Email: [lauren.ris@state.co.us](mailto:lauren.ris@state.co.us); [amy.ostdiek@state.co.us](mailto:amy.ostdiek@state.co.us)

Re: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Comment – Colorado's Near-Term Contribution Program

Dear Directors,

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) wishes to provide the following comments on Colorado's Near-Term Contribution Program (Program) for 2027 and 2028. We appreciate the opportunity to share critical input from stakeholders in the Upper Gunnison River Basin.

First, we'd like to express our support and full agreement with the comments provided by the Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRD) in their August 26, 2026, letter of comment to the CWCB and ask that you please identify our organization as an additional entity supporting these comments.

UGRWCD and our water user stakeholders have cooperated with CRD and other west slope water entities by actively participating in the development of policy frameworks and commenting on and/or jointly funding a number of studies in collaboration with CRD. These include for example, the Colorado River Risk Studies, Upper Basin Demand Management Economic Study in Western Colorado, CRD Conceptual Market Structure for Potential Demand Management Program in the State of Colorado (Version 3.0), Conserved Consumptive Use Program Principles (February 2026), and a number of other Water Bank Work Group efforts all lead by the CRD.

UGRWCD has also commissioned a number of our own studies including:

- Upper Gunnison Basin Risk Study
- Upper Gunnison Basin Economic Impact Study

This large body of west slope work and our lived experience managing our water supplies and working side by side with our water users has helped to inform the following additional comments and recommendations on the draft Program criteria for your consideration.

**Criteria 1 – Result in Credit. *Must result in water contribution / credit for Upper Division States pursuant to agreements among the Upper Division States and the Bureau of Reclamation.***

The Lower Basin States are addicted to overuse, and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has shown that they are more concerned with protecting infrastructure than trying to develop reasonable solutions that also protect the communities and the environment for all that depend upon the Colorado River. We cannot depend upon past agreements with USBR because many of those agreements never contemplated that we'd be in a 30-year on-going drought cycle or that we'd have a 200-1,000 hydrologic drought like the one we just experienced in 2026.

For example, in early to late May of 2026 water users in the Gunnison basin began sounding the alarm about USBR's releases from Blue Mesa Reservoir (BMR) greater than 1400 cfs per day and potential consequences to storage elevations. USBR was operating BMR under the 2012 Aspinall Unit Reoperations Record of Decision (ROD) for endangered fish species based on inflows of not less than 200,000 acre-feet (Figure 1 below from ROD), even though actual inflows at that time were projected to be 150,000 acre-feet.

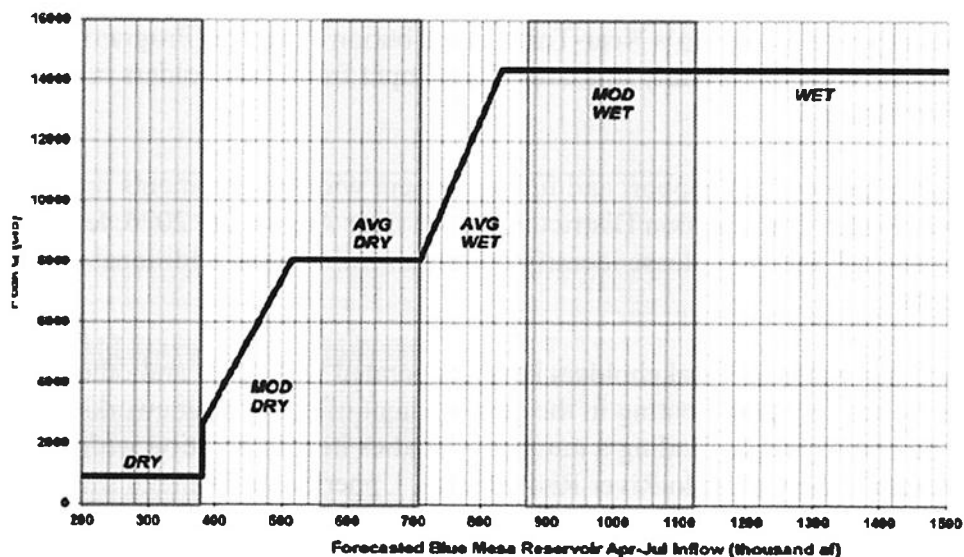


Figure 1. Determination of peak flow target at Whitewater gage based on forecasted April through July inflow to Blue Mesa Reservoir. Showing hydrological year types, with "mod" meaning moderate and "avg" meaning average.

We also know that spring-peak, duration and baseflow targets (Table 1 and 2 below from ROD) for the forecasted range of inflows are inadequate for recent hydrology or the protection of endangered or threatened fish species if you ultimately run out of storage.

**Table 1. Spring peak and duration targets for range of forecasted inflows under the selected alternative**

| Blue Mesa Forecasted<br>April-July Inflow<br>Acre feet | Desired Peak at<br>Whitewater<br>cfs | Duration of Half-<br>Bank (8,070 cfs)<br>Days | Duration at<br>Peak Flow<br>(up to 14,350 cfs)<br>Days |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| < 381,000                                              | 900                                  | 0                                             | 0                                                      |
| 381,000 to 516,000                                     | 2,600 to 8,070                       | 0                                             | 0                                                      |
| 516,001 to 709,000                                     | 8,070                                | 10                                            | 0                                                      |
| 709,001 to 831,000                                     | 8,070 to 14,350                      | 20                                            | 2                                                      |
| 831,001 to 1,123,000                                   | 14,350                               | 40                                            | 10                                                     |
| >1,123,000                                             | 14,350                               | 60                                            | 15                                                     |

**Table 2. Base flow targets at Whitewater Gage by year type and month (cfs)\***

| Year<br>Type | Jan.<br>and<br>Feb. | Mar.        | Apr.<br>and<br>May | Jun.<br>and<br>July | Aug.        | Sep.        | Oct.<br>and<br>Nov. | Dec. |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|------|
| Wet          | 1050                | 1050        | 1050               | 1500                | 1500        | 1050        | 1050                | 1050 |
| Mod<br>Wet   | 1050                | 1050        | 1050               | 1500                | 1500        | 1050        | 1050                | 1050 |
| Avg<br>Wet   | 1050                | 1050        | 1050               | 1500                | 1050        | 1050        | 1050                | 1050 |
| Avg<br>Dry   | 1050                | 1050        | 1050               | 1500                | 1050        | 1050        | 1050                | 1050 |
| Mod<br>Dry*  | 750                 | 750-<br>790 | 750-<br>890        | 1050                | 1050        | 750-<br>890 | 750-<br>790         | 750  |
| Dry*         | 750                 | 750-<br>790 | 750-<br>890        | 1050                | 750-<br>890 | 750-<br>890 | 750-<br>790         | 750  |

\*During March through November in Moderately Dry and Dry type years, additional releases will be made as necessary to provide flows above the 750 cfs anticipated to be diverted by the Redlands Diversion Dam, for the fish ladder and fish screen as shown.

These release schedules and targets pushed reservoir elevations to crisis conditions with projections that BMR would reach dead pool by October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. If USBR had continued this approach—and if the State of Colorado had not threatened legal action—BMR would have been little more than a puddle.

Trying to meet these targets when inflows are less than 381,000 acre-feet wastes critical storage, doesn't result in protection of the environment or species, and ultimately puts all Gunnison Basin and Colorado River Water Users in Colorado at risk of non-compliance with the Endangered Species Act and negates all the good work and accomplishments water users in the Gunnison and Colorado River Basins have made to date.

At the August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Aspinall Operations Meeting, UGRWCD asked the Fish and Wildlife Service what if anything they would have done differently with regard to managing flows this year for endangered fish species. They indicated that they would have reduced flows earlier to maintain a lower flow regime because endangered fish species in the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers are “adapted to dealing with drought” and could have handled lower flows earlier in the season. If this action had been taken earlier, we would have had sufficient water to send downstream to mitigate potential impacts to the fishery during the hottest and driest months of the year (August and September) and the busiest part of the local tourism season at BMR which supports our regional economy.

The Aspinall Unit ROD did not contemplate reservoir storage recovery sufficiently in the release plans nor did it contemplate coming out of drought years when our end of year storage content is 17% of total capacity. If the need for new or supplemental drought operations or reservoir storage recovery agreements is not addressed, the State of Colorado will have made the Upper Gunnison River Basin the State of Colorado’s Conservation Program sacrifice zone.

Finally, BMR releases are being managed to *exceed* the targets at the downstream Whitewater, Colorado compliance point stream gauge leading to excess water being released (over 70,000 acre-feet in 2025) and not credited to the State of Colorado. This is not acceptable. UGRWCD understands that the timing and accomplishing peak flow and duration targets is difficult but under no scenario should this be allowed to continue without credit to the State of Colorado.

As Directors can clearly see, existing agreements with USBR are inadequate. The Upper Division States must be able to responsibly manage our water supplies during drought while mitigating impacts to endangered species and local communities; have control over and credit for any releases; have detailed contracts with USBR around triggers and any amounts released; and have terms for reservoir storage recovery whether in Powell or any Upper Initial Unit (Flaming Gorge, Aspinall Unit, or Navajo).

Operating in crisis mode does not lead to good outcomes and it puts our regional communities at risk. Both the State and USBR acted too late in managing the crisis on BMR and we need supplemental drought operations agreements that provide certainty for our communities and economies.

**Criteria 2 – Operate within Existing Authorities. *Must work within existing Colorado state law and authorities.***

UGRWCD is unclear which existing authorities the State is referring to and respectfully requests that the State clearly identify and discuss all statutory authorities they are depending upon to operate the Program.

**Criteria 3 – Provide for Tribal Participation. *Provide mechanisms for and encourage Tribal participation.***

UGRWCD supports this criterion.

**Criteria 4 – Protect Water Rights. *Include only valid, active water rights, and avoid negative impacts to other water rights holders.***

The State of Colorado must implement a Program that recognizes local and regional differences in water resource availability and management. UGRWCD has an excellent working relationship with the Division of Water Resources (Division 4) and with our local Water Commissioners. We appreciate that the State intends to rely on them to review applications to help protect water rights and mitigate impacts, but even DWR will tell you that their “authority ends at the headgate” and they do not deal with individual landowner issues in the field or with down-ditch issues.

The State would be derelict in its responsibility to avoid negative impacts to other water right holders and our respective communities if it excludes local input, especially input from the State’s water conservancy and conservation districts, water user associations and ditch companies who work on a daily basis with their water right holders to efficiently and effectively manage local water supplies, upgrade their aging infrastructure, etc.

UGRWCD respectfully requests that the State’s Contribution Program include local and regional entities in the application review process to help avoid impacts to other water right holders and their communities. In addition, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC) should encourage and support local communities with advancing opportunities for local solutions as we know our communities best.

**Criteria 5 – Minimum Acreage. *Minimum acreage for irrigation projects.***

While UGRWCD understands the need to have any Program be administrable and feasible by the State of Colorado, placing too strict a limit on acreage may eliminate participation from a diversity of water users that, for example, may be on a given ditch system (e.g., homeowners associations that have 35-acre tracts of land and still operate them for agricultural purposes, golf courses, municipal parks, etc.).

UGRWCD encourages the CWCBC to maintain maximum flexibility in the development of the Contribution Program to encourage innovation and community collaboration.

**Criteria 6 – Drought Resilience. *Build and support local drought resiliency.***

UGRWCD appreciates this criterion and emphasizes the importance of CWCBC support for Colorado projects that provide multi-year benefits and strengthen local drought resilience.

Across the state, entities could pursue infrastructure projects with useful life expectancies of 25 to 50 years that also conserve water. In addition, many agricultural studies are also experimenting with drought-tolerant grass seed mixes or other crops that require less water (e.g., Rye and Sainfoin studies).

**Criteria 7 – Innovation. *Encourage innovative water conservation techniques.***

UGRWCD supports this criterion.

**Criteria 8 – Administrative Ease. *Must be administrable and feasible for the Division of Water Resources.***

UGRWCD agrees with this criterion provided that it does not impede innovative local community collaboration.

**Criteria 9 – Ditch Company or Other Requirements. *Require compliance with local ditch company / water user association requirements or by-laws and certification of such.***

UGRWCD agrees with this criterion.

**Criteria 10 – Community Impacts. *Avoid reasonably foreseeable negative community impacts.***

UGRWCD wishes to emphasize previous comment, that the State will need the help and support of local and regional water conservancy and conservation districts and ditch and water user associations to help *avoid reasonably foreseeable negative community impacts.*

Every local community across the state is unique in their individual water resource challenges and opportunities. For example, in the Upper Gunnison Basin, we practice flood irrigation which has multiple positive benefits to our community including:

- Briefly extending the length of time that water remains in our basin by capturing and diverting seasonal snowmelt from our rivers and applying it to our agricultural fields whereafter it returns to the system as shallow groundwater return flow and late season baseflows.
- These return flows and late season baseflows support
  - Downstream agricultural water right holders who benefit from their neighbor's return flows
  - Commercial fishing and boating community which benefits from an extended river season
  - Gold medal fisheries and other wildlife benefits including support for threatened species like the Gunnison sage grouse who depend upon our flood irrigated agricultural fields during critical times of their life cycle
  - Wetlands and water quality improvement

CWCB should incentivize innovation, encourage community cooperation and collaboration, and provide maximum, reasonable flexibility in approach to conservation in order to avoid negative impacts.

**Criteria 11 – Participation & Proportionality. *Encourage contributions from across the state and sectors, including considering ways to incentivize proportional participation.***

It is critical that the CWCB encourage contributions from across the State of Colorado and across water sectors. Our water user communities on the Western Slope remain steadfast in their opposition to any program that would result in our western slope agricultural and rural communities becoming sacrifice zones.

The Program must also allow deficit and split season irrigation practices and variable pricing in order to encourage participation across all regions of the State of Colorado. Because Upper Gunnison Basin high elevation hay production is so closely tied to our cattle operations, our producers must have options for participation and pricing that allows them to mitigate risk associated with potential loss of production on their cattle herds. Upper Gunnison Basin producers know from lived experience and supported studies that we cannot fully fallow our agricultural fields without causing significant and long-term damage to our soils and loss of agricultural productivity for 3-5 years. This is in contrast to row crop producers who can fully fallow their fields and then plant alfalfa or winter cover crops that fix nitrogen in the soils, resulting in a post fallow production increase or “bump”.

Finally, the State must ensure that any Program developed prevents water speculators interested only in monetizing non-use of water.

**Criteria 12 – Environment. *Incentivize environmental benefits where possible.***

UGRWCD supports this criterion.

**Criteria 13 – Federally Funded. *Utilize federal funding.***

UGRWCD supports this criterion.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and Upper Gunnison Basin stakeholders, UGRWCD appreciates this opportunity to provide input. If CWCB staff have any follow-up questions or need clarification on any of our comment, please reach out to me at [schavez@ugrwcd.org](mailto:schavez@ugrwcd.org) or 970-641-6065.

Sincerely,



Sonja Chavez  
General Manager

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

## **Basin Water Supply Update**

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Water Supply Planning Manager

**DATE:** September 28, 2026

**SUBJECT:** September Basin Water Supply Information



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

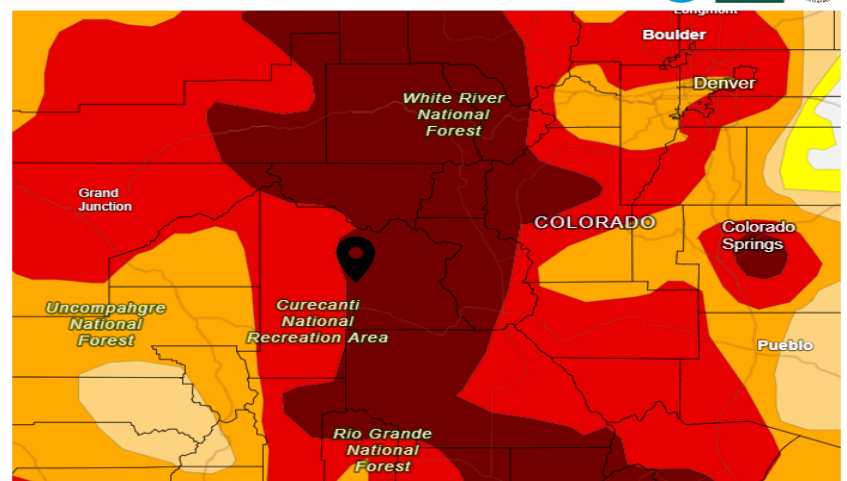
### **Drought Conditions**

Drought categories are determined based upon precipitation, snowpack, humidity, evapotranspiration, vegetation health, streamflow, lake and reservoir levels, soil moisture, and groundwater data. The current conditions are presented on the map provided. According to the *Drought Monitor* dated September 15, 2026, drought conditions continue to degrade in Gunnison and Saguache Counties since the August report.

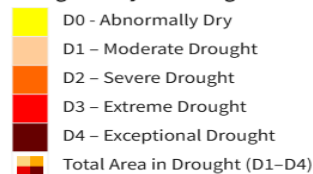
In August, 81% of Gunnison County was experiencing extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) drought conditions. As of September 15, 2026, this percentage has increased to 98% with a 22% increase in the exceptional (D4) category.

In August, 100% of Saguache County was experiencing extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought conditions and this has been

**U.S. Drought Monitor**



**Drought & Dryness Categories**



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA  
Data Valid: 09/15/26

| % of Gunnison County          |
|-------------------------------|
| D0 - Abnormally Dry           |
| D1 - Moderate Drought         |
| D2 - Severe Drought           |
| D3 - Extreme Drought          |
| D4 - Exceptional Drought      |
| Total Area in Drought (D1-D4) |

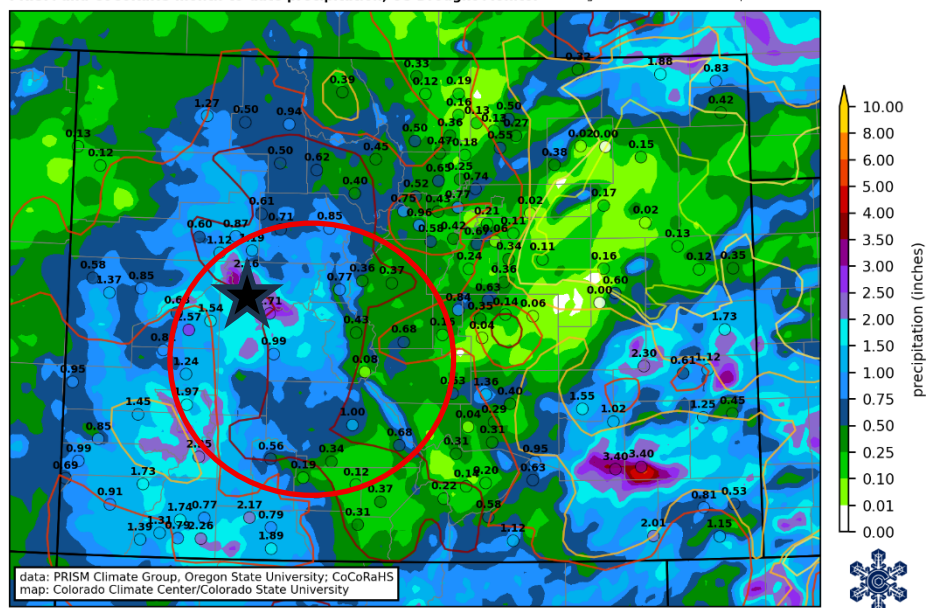
**Drought.gov**

ongoing since July. However, the percentage in the D4 category has now increased by 28% since the August report.

Drought conditions have seen a slight improvement in Hinsdale County. As of September 15, 2026, there has been a decline in the extreme (D3) category from 62% to 53%. There has also been an increase in the severe (D2) category, from 11% to 19%, which indicates an overall improvement in that area. Unfortunately, the exceptional (D4) category has seen no improvement and remains the same at 27%.

## Precipitation

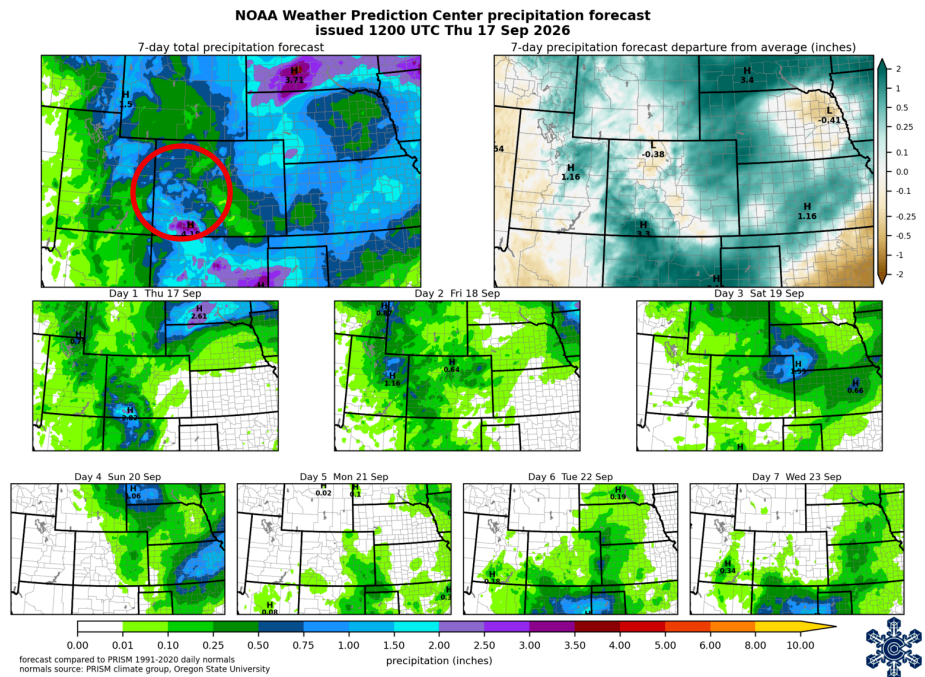
PRISM and CoCoRaHS month-to-date precipitation, US Drought Monitor through 6:00am MDT Wed 16 September 2026



The map to the left represents precipitation amounts in inches for September month to date. (*Climate Center. September 16, 2026*).

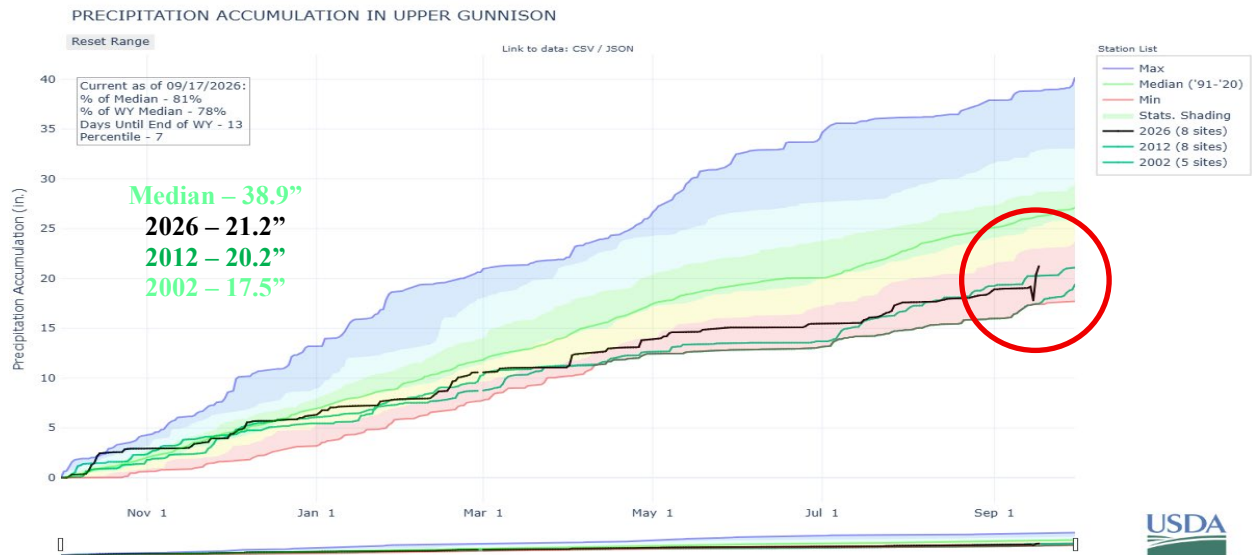
This map shows that all three counties in the basin have received precipitation since the beginning of September. These amounts have ranged from 0.75 inches (area in northwestern Gunnison County that saw close to 3.0 inches of precipitation) as shown by the purple and red colors.

The images to the right represent the seven-day forecast from September 17 through September 23. The 7-day total precipitation graphic shows a cumulative precipitation amount for this timeframe ranging from 0.5 inches to 4 inches of precipitation in areas to the south. The daily breakdown graphics show that most of the precipitation is likely to occur only on September 17 and will taper off through the remainder of the seven days.

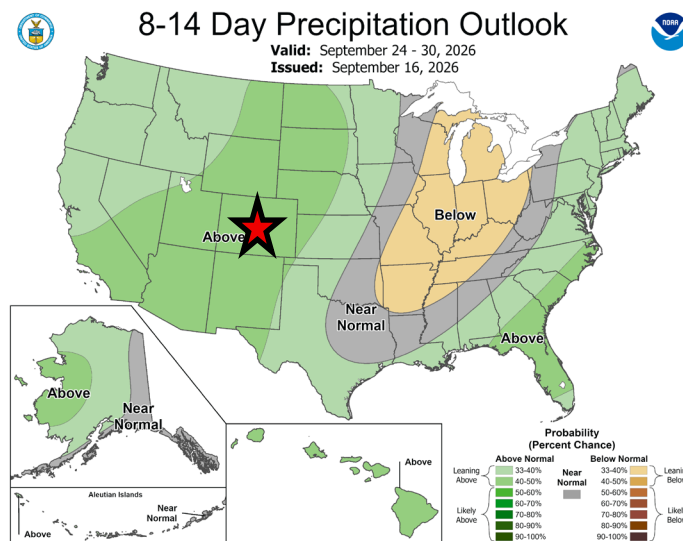


The precipitation trend graph provided below for the entire Upper Gunnison Basin is compiled from data from eight SNOTEL sites located in the basin (*NRCS, September 17, 2026*). This graph shows that precipitation in the Upper Gunnison Basin (21.2") is well below the median amount (38.9") and is 81% of that median for this date.

Also, included in this graph is a comparison of precipitation amounts in 2002 and 2012. Based on this graph, 2026 precipitation amounts are still tracking very closely with the 2002 and 2012 drought year amounts (17.5") and (20.2") respectively. The recent precipitation has resulted in a jump in the amount for 2026 but the area is still in the 7<sup>th</sup> percentile for the year. One piece of good news is that during these events we have seen slight SWE accumulation at the Butte, Cochetopa Pass, Park Cone, Scofield Pass, Slumgullion, and Upper Taylor SNOTEL sites.



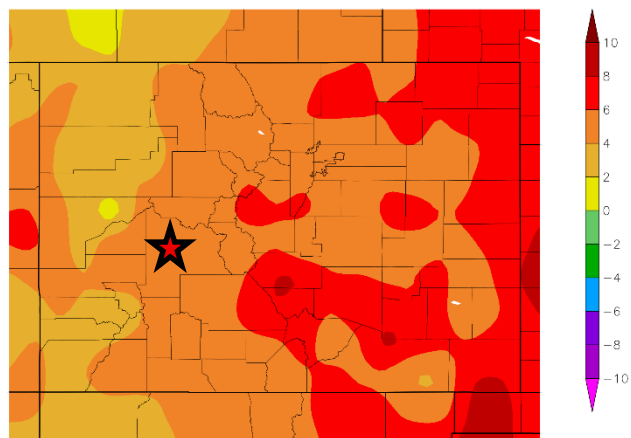
The map below shows the 8 to 14 day (September 24 – September 30) precipitation outlook (NOAA, September 16, 2026). This shows that there is a 40 to 50% chance of the continuation of above normal precipitation for the entire state.



## Temperature

This map shows the departure from normal temperature month to date for September (September 1- September 16). Temperatures over that timeframe have been about two degrees above the normal maximum temperatures for this time of year (*Colorado Climate Center, September 17, 2026*). Recent precipitation events have resulted in lower temperatures since the beginning of the month.

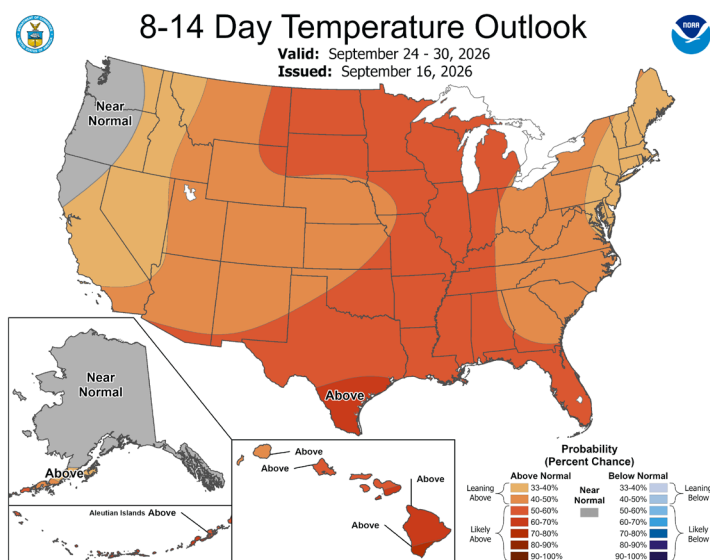
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
9/1/2026 – 9/16/2026



Generated 9/17/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

The map below shows the 8 to 14 day forecasted temperature outlook (September 24 – September 30) which shows a 40 to 50% chance of being above normal temperatures in that timeframe for the entire state. (*NOAA, August 13, 2026*)



## Streamflow

The table provided below shows streamflow in the Upper Gunnison Basin. The information provided shows the effect recent precipitation events have had on streamflow in most areas. Specifically, this shows significant precipitation that occurred on September 15 (*CDSS, September 16, 2026*). A number of the gage sites had streamflow above the historical average for the first time this year.

| <b>Station Name</b>                           | <b>September 15 (cfs)</b> | <b>September 14 (cfs)</b> | <b>Increase in Streamflow (cfs)</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Gunnison River near Gunnison</b>           | <b>241</b>                | <b>143</b>                | <b>98</b>                           |
| <b>Tomichi Creek at Sargent's</b>             | <b>19</b>                 | <b>11</b>                 | <b>8</b>                            |
| <b>Tomichi Creek at Gunnison</b>              | <b>27</b>                 | <b>14</b>                 | <b>13</b>                           |
| <b>Taylor River at Taylor Park*</b>           | <b>77</b>                 | <b>21</b>                 | <b>56</b>                           |
| <b>Taylor River blw Taylor Park Reservoir</b> | <b>69</b>                 | <b>53</b>                 | <b>16</b>                           |
| <b>Taylor River at Almont</b>                 | <b>127</b>                | <b>99</b>                 | <b>28</b>                           |
| <b>Slate River abv Baxter Gulch*</b>          | <b>54</b>                 | <b>3</b>                  | <b>51</b>                           |
| <b>East River blw Cement Creek*</b>           | <b>164</b>                | <b>39</b>                 | <b>125</b>                          |
| <b>East River at Almont*</b>                  | <b>167</b>                | <b>70</b>                 | <b>97</b>                           |
| <b>Ohio Creek near Baldwin*</b>               | <b>65</b>                 | <b>4</b>                  | <b>61</b>                           |
| <b>Lake Fork blw Lake San Cristobal</b>       | <b>38</b>                 | <b>30</b>                 | <b>8</b>                            |
| <b>Henson Creek at Lake City</b>              | <b>35</b>                 | <b>24</b>                 | <b>11</b>                           |
| <b>Lake Fork at Gateview</b>                  | <b>82</b>                 | <b>54</b>                 | <b>28</b>                           |

\*Gage sites that were above the historical average

As a result of the increase in streamflow, both reservoirs saw an increase in inflow at that same time. Blue Mesa Reservoir went from 294 cfs to 530 cfs; and Taylor Reservoir went from 37 cfs to 119 cfs.

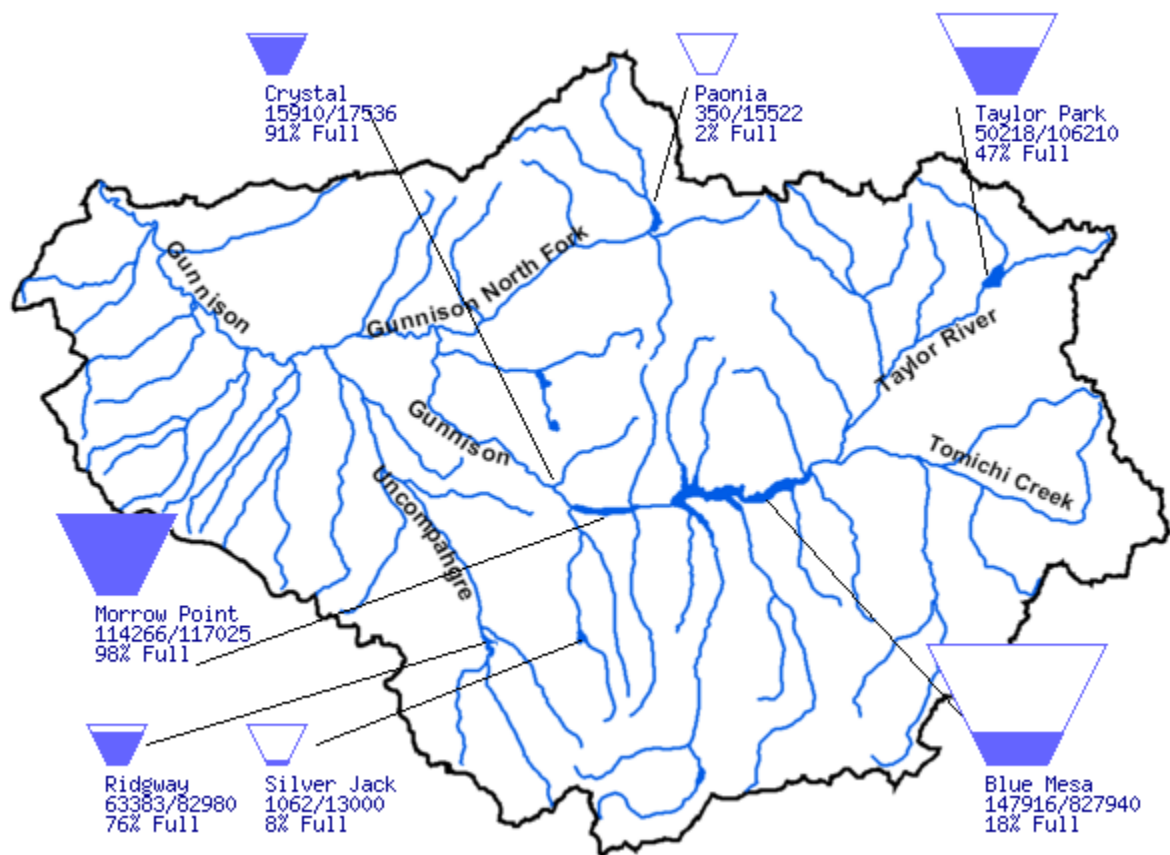
## **Reservoir Storage and Operations**

Reservoir storage in the entire Gunnison Basin is 49% full, which is a decline of 3% from the August report. This is due to the fact that Paonia and Silver Jack Reservoirs are now at 2% and 8% respectively. Blue Mesa has also declined from 26% to 18% over the past month.

Reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison Basin include Taylor Park and Blue Mesa with storage at 48% and 18% of full, respectively. Total reservoir storage in the Upper Gunnison Basin is 32% full, which is a decline of 6% from the August report. (*USBR, River Basin Tea-cup Diagrams, September 16, 2026*).

Data Current as of:  
09/16/2026

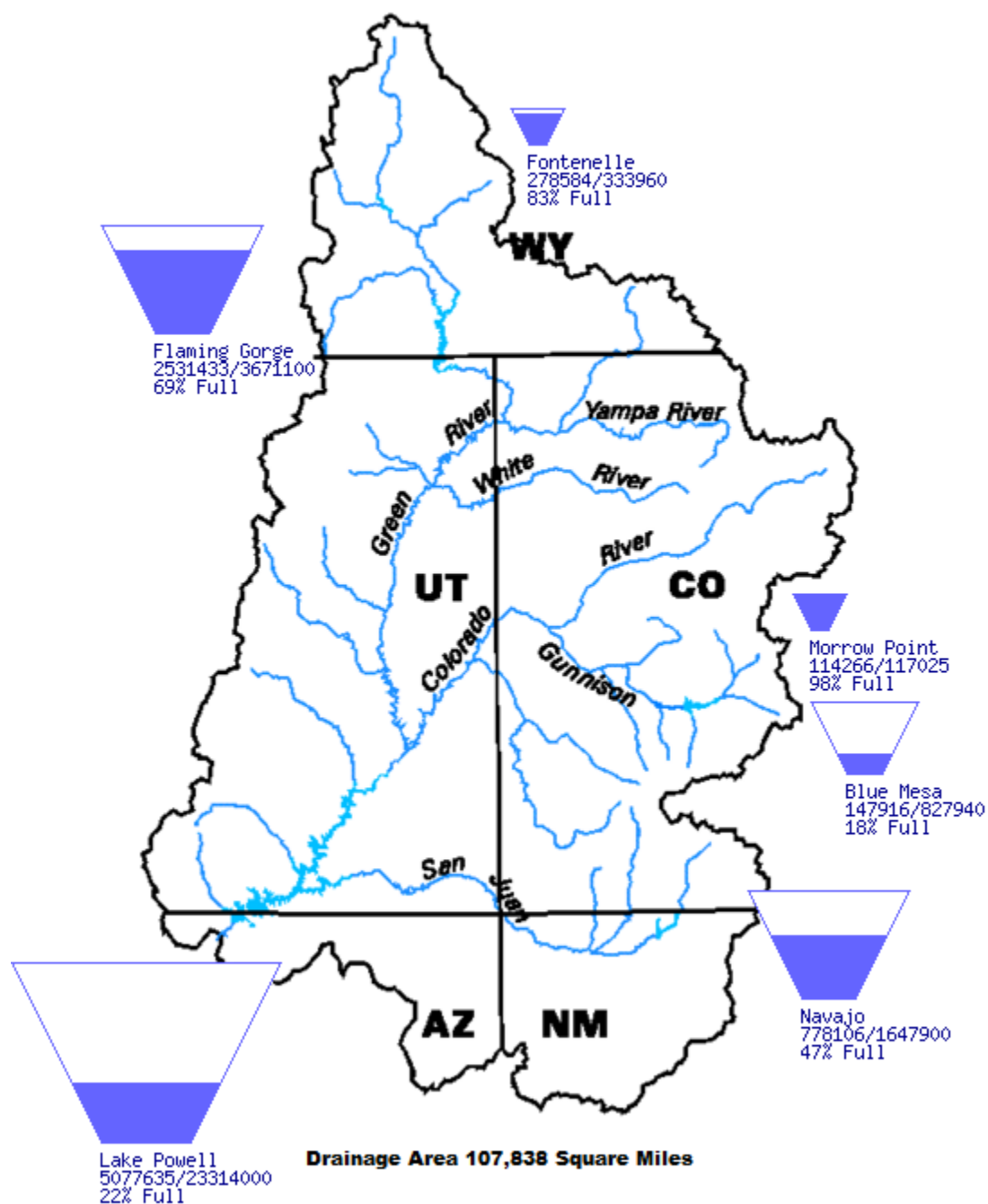
## Gunnison River Basin, CO



Reservoir storage in the Upper Colorado River Basin is 56.2% full, which is a decrease of 3.3% from the August report. This is reflected in the tea-cup diagram provided below dated September 16, 2026.

Data Current as of:  
09/16/2026

## Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



## Aspinall Unit Operations

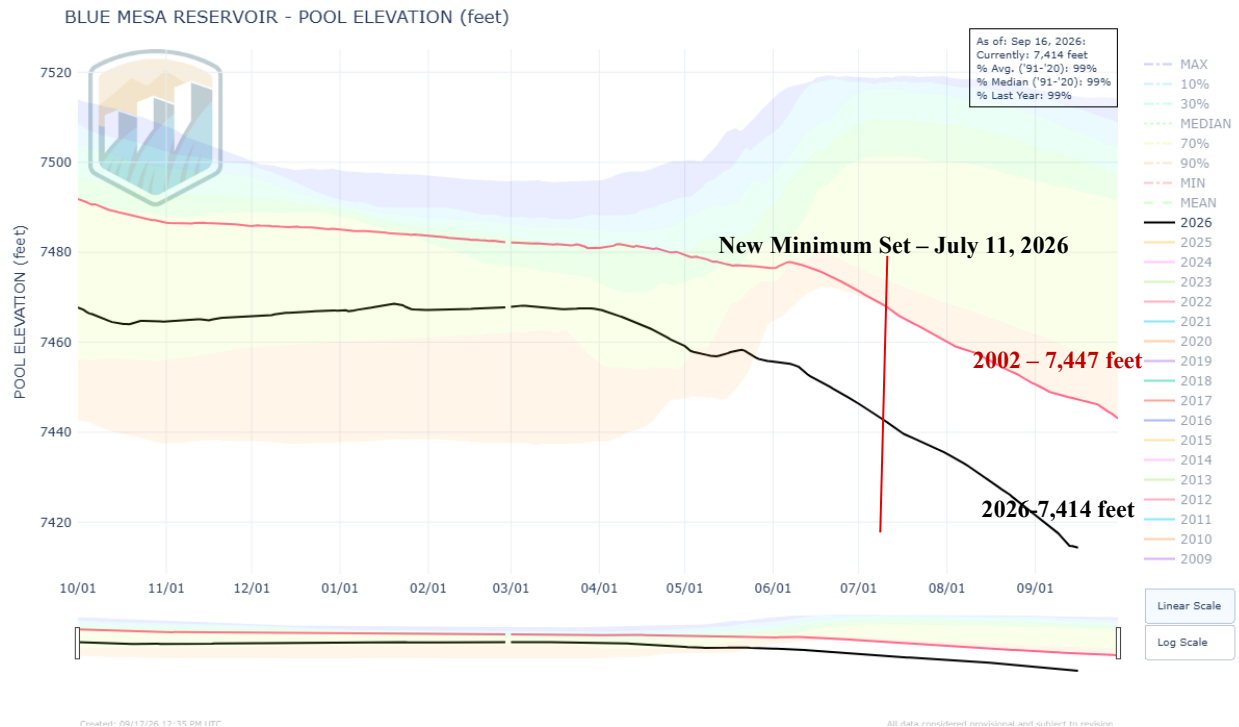
The following Aspinall Operations information is provided by the US Bureau of Reclamation – Aspinall Operations (<https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/cs/asp.html>, September 3, 2026) and USBR Hydrodata Dashboard (<https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/hydrodata>, September 17, 2026).

August unregulated inflow into Blue Mesa was 16,000 acre-feet or 27% of average. The unregulated forecasted inflow volumes for the months of September, October, and November are 17,000 acre-feet (49% of average), 21,000 acre-feet (58% of average), and 18,000 acre-feet (61% of average), respectively.

For WY2026 the current unregulated inflow volume forecasted for Blue Mesa is 377,000 acre-feet (42% of average). The actual unregulated inflow for the April-July 2026 period is 155,000 acre-feet, which is 24% of average. Storage will continue to decrease throughout the remainder of the September with a projected end of year water elevation of 7,412.01 feet and storage amount 140,000 which is 17% of live capacity. The current elevation in Blue Mesa is 147,916 acre-feet which is 7,916 acre-feet above the forecasted end of year amount. The forecasted end of the year elevation is 19 feet above the minimum-power pool elevation of 7,393 feet and 192 feet above the dead pool elevation of 7,220 feet.

As of September 14, 2026, the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association began ramping down tunnel diversions to 675-700 cfs. In coordination with that effort, Crystal Reservoir releases have been decreased to 875-900 cfs from 1,240 cfs and flows through the Black Canyon will be between 200-225 cfs. Tunnel diversions are anticipated to be at 700 cfs through October 31. (Andrew Linbach – USBR, September 11, 2026).

The graph provided below shows pool elevation in Blue Mesa Reservoir. Included in the graph is a comparison with WY2002 (red line). As of September 16, the pool elevation was 7,414 feet. On the same day in 2002, the elevation was at 7,447 feet, thirty-three feet higher than 2026. The 2002 drought year set a minimum for the period of record (1991-2020) on July 11 at 7,467 feet. This year, the July 11 pool elevation was 7,442 feet which is a new minimum record.



## Taylor Reservoir Operations

The Taylor Local Users Group (TLUG) held its final meeting of the year on September 9, 2026. Andrew Limbach from the US Bureau of Reclamation presented the Taylor Park Reservoir September 1 forecast. The forecast showed 32,996 acre-feet of runoff occurring in the water supply period of April-July. The actual observed inflow into the reservoir was 32,756 acre-feet which was 240 acre-feet less than the forecast.

As of September 16, the storage content of the reservoir was 50,218 acre-feet. At the September 9 TLUG meeting, the group had a unanimous decision to leave releases at 70 cfs until the end of September to support the fishery which has already been hit hard this extreme drought year. Other problems this year with meeting the target have been ongoing issues with model forecasts which have consistently run high (i.e., predicting more inflow than we are actually receiving). Keeping releases at 70 cfs will likely cause reservoir elevations to fall below the previously approved Four Parties (Uncompahgre, UGRWCD, CRWCD and USBR) figure of 50,000 acre-feet. Executive staff received approval on September 17 from the Four Parties to set the new floor at not less than 48,000 acre-feet. Releases will drop to 55 cfs on October 1 and will remain at this level for the winter.

## **Lake Powell Operations**

The following information is provided by the *Lake Powell Water Database* webpage ([lakepowell.water-data.com](http://lakepowell.water-data.com)) and is dated September 16, 2026.

Lake Powell elevation is currently at 3,516.67 feet with a content of 5.077 million acre-feet (maf) or 21.78% full (24,322,000 acre-feet). This elevation is 183.33 feet from full pool and is down 29.48 feet from last year on this date. As of September 16, 2026, total inflows for WY26 are 41.97% of average. The current elevation of 3,516.67 is 8.33 feet below the critical elevation of 3,525 feet and 26.67 feet above the minimum power pool elevation of 3,490 feet.

RETURN TO AGENDA

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Staff, General Manager,  
Committee Reports**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** September 28, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Staff, General Manager, Committee Report

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### **I. Staff Updates**

- A. Water-Quality/Quantity Monitoring
  - a. Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist (**Memorandum**)
- B. Wet Meadows Program
  - a. Amanda Aulenbach, Program Director (**Memorandum**)
- C. Water Resources Fellow Update
  - a. Jules Iovino (**Memorandum**)
- D. Administrative Specialist Update
  - a. Angela Miller (**Memorandum**)
- E. Office Manager / Senior Program Manager Update
  - a. Xeriscaping
  - b. Back deck construction

### **II. General Manager Updates**

#### **F. Strategic Planning**

The following in person board and staff strategic pillar work group meetings were held during the month of September:

- 1. Education & Outreach
- 2. Forecast, Data & Monitoring
- 3. Partnerships
- 4. Staff

#### **G. Water Resource Project Implementation**

- 1. Cain Borsum Diversion Improvement & Fish Passage – Under construction.
- 2. S. Krueger & Moran Diversion Improvement & Fish Passage – Working up the final designs after receiving landowner input.
- 3. 2026 Cloud Seeding Services Agreement – Contract complete.
- 4. Lake San Cristobal Low Flow Outlet Structure – Working on setting up a LSCWAE board meeting to discuss design modification, price increase and provide an opportunity for public input.
- 5. Ag Return Flow Study – First meeting of the Technical Team held this

month with next steps being development of return flow modeling scenario(s). Staff and USGS will work with agricultural community and others to help identify scenarios that help to inform us about implications of potential future demand management, land use change, or climate change scenarios on return flows.

6. Gap Weather Radar Update – Update on lack of activity occurring on BLM Big Mesa permitted radar site.
7. Water-quality & Quantity Data Dashboard Update – Anticipate contract completion by end of October.

#### H. Advocacy

1. Blue Mesa Reservoir Stakeholder Meeting with Senator Bennett
  - a. UGRWCD proposed BMR Drought Operations & Reservoir Recovery Supplemental Agreement. Preliminary planning with stakeholders occurring.
  - b. Colorado River District Update – Verbal update provided by General Manager.
2. Elk Creek Fire Community Meeting with Senator Bennett.
3. Colorado Contribution Program Criteria, **UGRWCD Letter of Comment**.

#### I. Partnerships

1. Restore Colorado Grant Agreement (National Fish & Wildlife Foundation) – Anticipate signing agreement by the end of September or early October.
2. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Bucket 2 Environmental Grant Agreement – Gunnison Conservation District (Applicant) has completed documentation for grant agreement. We anticipate GCD being under contract in October.
3. Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council – Working on next steps related to future direction of the group and moving toward implementation.

### III. Taylor Local Users Group & Taylor Reservoir Operations Update

**Meeting minutes** from September 9, 2026, and update from Chair, Don Sabrowski.

**Recommendation for Board Action:** Approval of the revised *minimum* end-of-year storage content target not to exceed 48,000 acre-feet.

### IV. Gunnison Basin Roundtable

Verbal update from General Counsel and General Manager following September 21, 2026 meeting.

### V. Committee Updates

#### A. Finance Committee Meeting

**Meeting minutes** from August 28, 2026.

1. Paid Time Off – Request for Increase During Service Years 0-3.  
As described in the meeting minutes, management conducted an informal review of local government and water resource industry organizations to obtain data on the amount of vacation and sick leave awarded to employees.

The results of this informal outreach was the finding that organizations are awarding 1 vacation day and 1 sick day per month for a total of 16 hours of leave per month. UGRWCD currently awards a total of 14 hours of paid time off per month for employees with service years between 0-5. UGRWCD benefit practice is lagging behind area and industry benefit practice.

**Recommendation for Board Action:** Approve a 2 hour per month increase in paid time off for staff within 0-3 years of service with the District which is an increase from 14 to 16 hours per month consistent with local area government and industry practices in the state of Colorado.

2. As described in the Finance Committee meeting minutes, despite board and management efforts to assist our employees in securing housing through the development of the UGRWCD Employee Home Opportunity Program (EHOP), home ownership remains out of reach for many of our staff due to high housing pricing (City of Gunnison median price is \$570,000) and high mortgage interest rates (currently hovering around 7% for a 30 year fixed loan). The local rental market also struggles with affordability issues with rent for a 1 bedroom running anywhere from \$1400-\$1,700 per month and a 2 bedroom anywhere from \$1,700-\$2,800 per month.

To shed additional light on the home ownership issue, consider an employee earning a gross salary of \$75,000 with a monthly net take home pay of \$4,313 after taxes and participation in our District pension program (8% contribution required). This employee finds a home for sale at \$400,000 (e.g., cost of “affordable” housing unit in the City of Gunnison) and is eligible for an \$85,000 EHOP loan. They want to enter into a 30-year fixed mortgage at 7% interest which puts their payment with homeowner’s insurance at approximately \$2,500/month which is 60% of their net income or 40% of their gross income. For a standard FHA loan, housing costs should not exceed 31% of your gross income. If the employee has a car payment and/or a student loan, this would likely put them well over the 43% threshold for total debt under FHA lending guidelines.

Management is requesting and the Finance Committee supports a recommendation to the full board to approve a \$500/month housing stipend option for all full-time permanent employees (General Manager and General Counsel not included). Employees would have to choose between participating in the EHOP or obtaining the monthly stipend. The stipend would be subject to state, federal and payroll taxes. Keeping this benefit separate from salary ensures that the benefit is not subject to inflationary wage pressure and helps address ongoing housing concerns from staff.

UGRWCD Management is aware that similar programs exist among other peer water districts (e.g., CRWCD) and are being considered by other local governments in the area (Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District).

**Recommendation for Board Action:** Approval of a \$500/month housing stipend for permanent full-time staff not including General Manager and General Counsel.

B. Education & Outreach (E/O) Committee Meeting

a. E / O Meeting Minutes and Draft Action Plan and Budget

**Recommendation for Board Action:** Approval to enter into a sole source contract in 2027 with Savannah Nelson of Sunshine Creatives for communications and education/outreach support in the amount of \$25,000.

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist/Field Supervisor  
**DATE:** September 28, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Basin Water Quality & Quantity Update

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**Homestake Pitch Uranium Mine**

Background: Homestake Mining Company is pursuing a Discharger-Specific Variance (DSV) on Marshall Creek, which will permit the concentration of uranium to exceed the state standard. This process is driven largely by the proponent (Homestake), and the procedure is overseen by the Water Quality Control Division (Division) with input from stakeholder organizations (EPA, CPW, UGRWCD).

Update: At this time last year, Homestake estimated completion of the Alternatives Analysis by spring 2026 to reach stakeholder consensus on a Pollution Management Plan by October 2026. The Alternatives Analysis is now estimated to be completed in December 2026, and the final WQCC hearing will likely be postponed to June 2028, rather than the original plan for June 2027.

Homestake also originally planned to implement community outreach in June 2026. As of this writing (August 2026), they are still in the process of onboarding an outreach consultant, so that step will be postponed as well.

No new meetings or documents have been generated in the time since the last update to the board.

**Temperature Working Group**

Background: As was stated in a letter issued by staff in October 2025, current water temperature standards do not sufficiently reflect up-to-date scientific knowledge, nor do they appropriately capture natural variability of weather or fish ecology; furthermore, enforcement of these standards lose sight of the standard's basis as an indicator for ecological health and treats it as a contaminant in its own right. These factors result in on-paper violations that are not ecologically meaningful.

Update: Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment issued a memo (Exhibit A) stating that, due to widespread difficulties, dischargers will not face enforcement for effluent

temperature exceedances until further notice. This issue is under consideration for inclusion in the state Water Quality Roadmap process. While this notice is a relief for permitted dischargers, it does not address segments such as Tomichi Creek, where consistent temperature exceedance is not related to a point-source discharger, and the ecological meaningfulness of that exceedance is unclear. The state may also develop definitions of drought conditions that may create non-representative data; i.e., exceedances that occur under this year's drought conditions may not be counted when determining if, and to what degree, a segment is in violation of standards. This is still an early idea, so much remains to be seen.

A group led by the Water Quality/Quantity Committee (QQ) of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) has been meeting since summer 2025 to discuss the issue and seek solutions that can be brought to the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC). QQ will work over the next year with a consultant to begin generating feasible changes to the policies. At that time, QQ will submit a proposal to the Water Quality Forum to create a state-supported workgroup that can ferry this issue through to a WQCC hearing and adoption of new policies.

### **USGS Return Flow Study**

When able, staff will continue to assist USGS personnel with monthly field sampling.

Staff met with USGS personnel on September 2<sup>nd</sup> for the first meeting of the project's Technical Subcommittee. The meeting included presentations from the USGS on the parameters and results surrounding the groundwater and chemical mixing models that are employed by the project.

There will be two additional reports published from the project. For one (endmember mixing model), data collection is intended to continue through the end of 2026, with final analyses and manuscript preparation in 2027; a draft of this paper will be made available in 2028. For the other (MODFLOW groundwater model), data collection will continue through 2027, with a draft available in 2028.

USGS staff indicated that the 2026 drought conditions are valuable in developing the models.

Because surface water sampling was reduced from weekly to monthly intervals, there were significant research cost savings. The Technical Subcommittee discussed potential areas where the District could redirect those funds. To that end, USGS personnel are exploring a geophysical approach using magnetic resonance sounding technology, which may be able to detect groundwater characteristics in open fields without the need for new or existing wells. This approach is not yet considered fully viable and will be tested with pilot efforts in late 2026.

Finally, USGS sought input on what kinds of future scenarios to simulate with the groundwater (MODFLOW) model. Extended drought, land use change, and many other topics were discussed, and the parameters will be further narrowed down after USGS partners collect additional input from local stockgrowers.

## **Basin Water Quality Program**

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, District staff, along with other stakeholders (City of Gunnison, Gunnison Public Works, Crested Butte Public Works, Colorado River District) met with USGS water-quality monitoring personnel. This was the annual summary meeting for this program.

USGS staff presented on new and upcoming technologies that will help fill data gaps, especially precipitation information, which is generally not collectable during frozen months.

The presentation then covered an overview of flow gages in the basin. Most notable among these was the station known as *Slate R AB Baxter GL* (385106106571000), which experienced interruption due to construction activities at the adjacent Whetstone housing site in the East River Basin. While it is not guaranteed, it appears that the gage station may be fully operational sooner than expected if the channel shape can be reestablished to its pre-construction state.

Moving on to water quality data, arsenic sampling was added to six sites, with some values exceeding the state standard. This is not unexpected, as arsenic exceedance is prolific throughout the entire state, with CDPHE planning to reevaluate the standard in the future. Perhaps most surprising among the water quality data was the lack of temperature exceedances among our sampled segments, as drought conditions tend to increase water temperature; however, while some segments were warmer than in “normal” years, most did not exceed the standard.

Future actions may include early warning and water quality monitoring in and downstream of the Elk Creek burn area in the Lake Fork sub-basin.

## **Eddy Covariance Flux Tower**

District staff are supporting a University of Nebraska research project that uses new technology to measure water cycling at the field scale. This is accomplished with Eddy Covariance Flux Towers that measure evapotranspiration, precipitation, and growing degree days. One of these towers is deployed on a private property in the basin and supports a network of 18 other such towers across five states. For the entire growing season, District field staff conduct monthly maintenance and cleaning on the instruments. More details on the tower and an interactive data dashboard can be found at <https://parallel41.nebraska.edu/home#/>.

## **Wet Meadows Program**

The Water Resources Specialist/Field Supervisor spent much of the field season supporting the Wet Meadows Program by planning and carrying out activities described in the Wet Meadows

Program memo. The Field Supervisor continues to develop the seasonal technicians' hard technical and interpersonal soft skills while also ensuring a safe working environment.

The Resources Specialist also maintains the Program's GIS infrastructure by building new features as needs arise, and managing & manipulating data to track and further project progress. Last year, the Resources Specialist began building custom large-scale data automation tools that could execute annual tasks, including generating seasonal metrics and updating long-term datasets. In the coming quarter, following the conclusion of the field season, the Specialist will continue to develop these tools for greater consistency and ability.

DATE: June 12, 2026  
FROM: Colorado Water Quality Control Division

**RE: Enforcement Discretion for Temperature Requirements in Domestic Wastewater Permits**

### **Background**

The Colorado Water Quality Control Division (division) recognizes that implementation of numeric temperature standards under Regulation 31 presents significant challenges for many domestic wastewater treatment facilities. Based on experience with permit development and facility-specific evaluations, the division understands that achieving compliance with temperature-based effluent limitations may be constrained by factors such as facility configuration, engineering limitations, financial considerations, and the influence of ambient environmental conditions.

The division is currently evaluating potential updates to its Water Quality Roadmap and associated regulatory provisions related to temperature standards, as well as developing improved tools to assess implementation feasibility. As this work progresses, the division acknowledges that in the meantime implementation of temperature-based effluent limitations may not be immediately feasible across the sector. The division also recognizes that facilities are managing multiple, concurrent regulatory obligations, and that sequencing investments to address the most significant and immediate water quality challenges in a coordinated and effective manner is an important consideration in achieving overall environmental outcomes.

### **Enforcement Discretion**

In recognition of these considerations, the division will exercise enforcement discretion for domestic wastewater treatment facilities to comply with effluent limitations and compliance schedules for numeric temperature standards, as described below.

Until further notice, the division will not initiate enforcement actions for:

- Exceedances of temperature-based effluent limitations; and
- Failure to meet compliance schedule requirements associated with such limitations;

provided that the permittee has developed and maintains a documented plan, available upon request by the division, and is actively engaged in planning and implementing reasonable measures toward compliance or reduction of thermal impacts. The division may request documentation or updates to assess whether planning efforts remain active and meaningful.

### **Eligibility and Expectations**

To be eligible for this enforcement discretion, permittees must develop and maintain a documented plan that:

- Identifies facility-specific constraints affecting compliance with temperature requirements;
- Evaluates potential approaches, to a reasonable degree, for addressing these constraints; and
- Describes a pathway toward compliance or measurable reduction in thermal impacts over time, including consideration of sequencing, key milestones, or decision points, as appropriate to the facility.

Permittees are expected to initiate development of such plans within a reasonable timeframe and to maintain documentation sufficient to demonstrate ongoing engagement upon request by the division.

Acceptable plans may include, but are not limited to:

- Integrated Management Plans
- Capital Improvement or Capital Construction Plans
- Asset Management Plans
- Strategic or Long-Range Planning Documents

Permittees are expected to maintain and periodically update these plans to reflect progress and evolving conditions. The division may request documentation or updates to assess whether planning efforts remain active and meaningful. Where a permittee is not maintaining or updating a plan, or is not demonstrating ongoing engagement, the division may determine that the facility is no longer eligible for this enforcement discretion and may consider appropriate compliance and enforcement responses, including application of standard compliance expectations, based on the specific circumstances.

### **Limitations of Enforcement Discretion**

This enforcement discretion:

- Does not apply to bypasses, spills, or other unauthorized discharges;
- Does not apply to failure to properly operate and maintain treatment systems;
- Does not relieve permittees of their obligation to monitor and report as required by their permits; and
- Does not apply to facilities currently subject to formal enforcement actions, unless otherwise determined by the division.

The division reserves the right to pursue enforcement action where circumstances warrant, including where a permittee is not making reasonable progress or where conditions present a significant risk to water quality or public health.

### **Program Context and Future Actions**

This approach reflects the division's intent to prioritize enforcement in a manner that is both protective of water quality and grounded in implementation feasibility. The division continues to evaluate regulatory and policy options related to temperature standards and will engage stakeholders as appropriate as this work progresses.

Nothing in this memorandum alters the applicability of existing water quality standards or permit requirements. This memorandum is not intended and cannot be relied upon to create rights, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party in litigation with the division. The division reserves the right to act at variance with this memorandum based on the specific facts of a situation and may modify or withdraw this approach at any time with appropriate notice.

If you have questions regarding this memorandum, please contact the Clean Water Permitting and Compliance Program Manager, Michael Roach, at [michael.roach@state.co.us](mailto:michael.roach@state.co.us) or (303) 709-0585.

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Program Director  
**DATE:** September 28, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Wet Meadows Program Quarterly Update

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Following is a memorandum of update to the UGRWCD Board of Directors on Wet Meadows Program (Program) activities over the past quarter, and activities anticipated to happen in the next quarter (October 1 through December 31, 2026).

**Field Activities:** To date, Wet Meadows Program staff and partners built 83 new structures and completed maintenance on 30 structures at 9 different project sites (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Summary of structures built and maintained at each project site July 1-September 30.

| Site Name                | Structures Built | Structures Maintained |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Pinecrest Ranch (Tribal) | 4                | 5                     |
| S. Cottonwood (USFS)     | 7                | 8                     |
| Teachout (USFS)          | 0                | 4                     |
| Bebbs Willow (USFS)      | 0                | 1                     |
| Henkel (USFS)            | 1                | 4                     |
| Woodcock (Private)       | 2                | 0                     |
| Centennial SWA (CPW)     | 17               | 0                     |
| Red Creek (NPS)          | 2                | 8                     |
| Antelope Creek (BLM)     | 50               | 0                     |

The South Cottonwood, Bebb's Willow, and Henkel sites were collaboratively completed by UGRWCD, USFS, CPW, and NPS personnel. Additionally, Program staff, with assistance from BLM, CPW, and NPS, sub-staged rock for approximately 70 structures at Antelope Creek (BLM) in preparation for volunteer events (Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) volunteer weekend over Labor Day, September 5-7<sup>th</sup>, and High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA), September 26<sup>th</sup>).

To date, Program staff completed new site assessments over 27 stream miles across 21 different sites, on BLM, USFS, and private lands.

Program staff assisted the Gunnison County Cheatgrass Coordinator with cheatgrass mapping, monitoring, and herbicide spraying. To date, staff surveyed approximately 400 acres for cheatgrass on city, private, and state lands, and chemically treated approximately 25 acres of cheatgrass on private, state, and federal lands.

Program staff assisted Marcella Tarantino (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies) and Renee Rondeau with the Program's long-term vegetation monitoring at Redden and Wolf Creek (private/BLM), Antelope Creek and Sage Hen Gulch (BLM), and Flat Top (USFS) project sites. Staff also assisted

restoration specialist Shawn Conner and USFS personnel with designing new structures at the Lost Canyon (USFS) project site.

Staff are continuing to collect the pre-construction fish movement data from a private ranch on Cochetopa Creek every two weeks where a modernized irrigation diversion structure and a low-cost pre-fabricated fish ladder will be installed. Staff are providing the data to CPW to analyze. This project is a collaborative effort between CPW, the landowner, Trout Unlimited, UGRWCD, and other funding partners including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Colorado River District, and Gunnison Basin Roundtable to test the effectiveness of the fish passage structure.

**Planning Activities:** The Program Director completed a project proposal for a private land site that is a tributary to Cochetopa Creek. Staff will continue planning efforts in coordination with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, NRCS, and the Gunnison Conservation District.

The Program Director is assisting Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, CPW, Western Colorado University, federal agencies, and the County with planning the 6<sup>th</sup> Gunnison Sage-grouse Summit and Festival that is anticipated to happen in spring 2027.

The Program Director is assisting other District staff with a spring improvement project in the Needle Creek Allotment (USFS-managed land), which will be funded by the District's CWCB Water Supply Reserve Fund grant. The District will contract with the private landowner, with project implementation expected in the spring 2027.

The Program Director, Water Resources Specialist, and Office Manager completed mid-season performance reviews for the two seasonal watershed restoration technicians. This provided valuable professional experience for the Program Director, Water Resources Specialist, and the technicians.

The Program Director is working to refine the 2027 draft budget for the Program.

**Education & Outreach:** Wet Meadows Program staff assisted with the CWCB East River Basin site tour on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Staff talked about the Geofluvial Assessment, Wildfire Zones of Concern Report, and Wet Meadows Program while at Kebler Pass.

Wet Meadows Program staff hosted Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and PACT Outdoors in partnership with CPW for a volunteer day on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-two volunteers built 15 structures, with PACT Outdoors sponsoring the lunch. Staff also hosted a 3-day volunteer event with WRV over Labor Day weekend, September 5-7<sup>th</sup>. Forty volunteers built 50 structures. Program staff will host HCCA for a volunteer day on National Public Lands Day, Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Wet Meadows Program Director joined the USFS for the annual Taylor Park and SBEADMR field trip to Dustin Gulch (near Spring Creek Reservoir) on August 4<sup>th</sup>. USFS provided an overview of the timber sale project that is currently out for bid.

Wet Meadows Program staff joined Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD) on September 8-10<sup>th</sup> in Grand Lake, CO to receive field training on NCWCD's post-wildfire restoration efforts in Supply Creek, which was affected by the East Troublesome Fire.

Program staff hosted two Western Colorado University class field trips to the Antelope Creek (BLM) project site on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Students learned about Zeedyk-style restoration and received hands-on experience with building structures. The Program Director gave a presentation on the basin's river ecology to a Western class on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Program Director and Administrative Specialist used the water wonder trailer to demonstrate healthy river systems to a Gunnison High School environmental science class on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Administrative Assistant will also join Program staff in the field for cross-training to help welcome and integrate her into the District.

**Research:** Researchers from University of Colorado Boulder signed the Wet Meadows Program Data Sharing Policy in August, and Program staff shared restoration structure data with the researchers. These research projects will assess metrics of success (e.g., drought resilience variability) and explore factors related to fire risk. Program staff will have regular check-in meetings with the researchers to ensure the projects stay on track and follow the research questions approved by Program partners.

**Funding:** The District received an amendment to The Nature Conservancy grant in August to expand the scope of work and was awarded an additional \$35,858 in funding. This funding will be used across management boundaries and expires in June 2027.

The USFS allocated \$10,000 in funding for the Wet Meadows Program Director's salary and other District administrative expenses. USFS submitted a Mutual Interest Agreement to the agency's Grants and Agreements Manager in August. We will continue to work through the federal contracting process, providing necessary project information as requested by the agency.

The District signed a contract with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies in August for Wet Meadows Program staff time on private land sites, not to exceed \$10,000. Bird Conservancy was awarded this funding through the Biophilia Foundation Riverscape Restoration grant. This funding and contract expire in December 2028.

The District was awarded \$91,219 in funding through CPW's Wetlands for Wildlife Program in June 2026, and \$369,076 in funding through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's RESTORE Colorado grant in May 2026. Staff are currently working through the contracting process for these grants.

The Gunnison Conservation District (GCD) was awarded \$750,000 in funding through Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Basin Environmental Drought Mitigation grant; the District will serve as a primary subcontractor for this grant. GCD is currently working through the federal contracting process.

The Wet Meadows Program Director completed quarterly grant reporting requirements, and, with assistance from the Office Manager, completed quarterly reimbursement requests for all Program grants and agreements.

**Anticipated Activities (Oct 1-Dec 31):** Wet Meadows Program staff will continue to assist the Gunnison County Cheatgrass Coordinator and agency partners with cheatgrass treatment across management boundaries. Staff will also continue to conduct new site assessments and complete maintenance work at project sites.

Wet Meadows Program staff will attend the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference in Avon, CO October 5-8<sup>th</sup>. Joslyn Hays will be presenting a poster about the Wet Meadows Prioritization Model on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Both of the seasonal technicians applied for and received a scholarship to attend this conference.

The Program Director is anticipating participation in the “Train the Trainer” Inter-seeding Workshop hosted by CSU Extension on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Program staff are anticipating co-hosting a group from Soldiers2Scientists on October 21<sup>st</sup> in collaboration with CPW. This group of veterans are touring SW Colorado to learn about conservation projects and will learn about Zeedyk-style restoration techniques and build structures on Miller Ranch SWA.

The Watershed Restoration Technicians’ last day is on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Wet Meadows Program staff will complete the end of season report for the 2026 field season by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Water Resources Fellow, Jules Iovino is moving into a full-time position as the District Conservation Technician with Gunnison Conservation District. Her last day is September 28<sup>th</sup>, and we wish her the best in her professional endeavors. She was an invaluable team member, and we appreciate all the great work she has done for the District the past two years.

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Jules Iovino, Water Resources Fellow  
**DATE:** September 28, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Water Resources Fellow Quarterly Update

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**Background**

Following is a memorandum of update to the UGRWCD Board of Directors on Water Resources Fellow activities over the past quarter (June 1 through September 30).

**Outreach:**

Staff brought the Water Wonder Trailer to both Mountain Roots and Coldharbour summer camps in Gunnison and Crested Butte and presented to approximately 70 students between 5 and 12 years old.

During Gunnison Cattleman's Days Staff attended the rodeo on Thursday night to watch as the rider carried the UGRWCD flag. The District was a sponsor of the Golden Circle of Champions for the second year in a row. Staff also participated in the Saturday parade where they pulled the drill seeder and hung both UGRWCD and CSU Extension banners.

Staff also participated in the Gunnison Middle School Taylor Challenge. They presented a lesson to approximately 85 students on water quality and how it affects the Basin. They also evaluated water samples that students brought from their activities with test kits provided by the District.

Staff brought the Water Wonder Trailer to Gunnison High School to work with 11<sup>th</sup> grade environmental science students and presented a lesson on erosion and stream health.

Staff recorded two new radio advertisements for local radio stations spreading drought awareness.

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Angela Miller, Administrative Specialist III  
**DATE:** September 28, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2026 Update

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I joined the team on August 17, 2026, and have spent the time since my start date becoming familiar with the organization, its programs, administrative processes, and current priorities. During this initial period, I have focused on supporting day-to-day operations, learning the organization's systems and procedures, and identifying opportunities to improve efficiency and coordination. The following summarizes activities completed during the third quarter and priorities anticipated for the fourth quarter.

**Activities Completed 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2026**

- **Financial Management Support:**
  - Reallocated and organized the monthly credit card statement.
  - Organized monthly invoices and supporting financial documentation.
  - Assisted with Board of Directors meeting-related expenses and mileage reimbursement.
- **Board & Other Administrative Duties:**
  - Created Doodle polls to coordinate schedules and meeting availability.
  - Created and updated calendars and added relevant meeting information.
  - Created committee email contact groups.
  - Created Zoom meeting links for meetings.
  - Assisted with preparation for Board meetings.
  - Recorded and prepared meeting minutes.
- **Project Management Support:**
  - Began learning about project management practices and processes.
  - Researched and compared project management software programs to identify an option that could support the organization's project tracking and coordination needs.
- **Education & Outreach Program Management:**
  - Prepared for the next Education and Outreach Committee meeting, scheduled for September 21 at 9:00 a. m. in the Boardroom. The committee will discuss the 2027 budget.
  - Attended Amanda's presentation to the Gunnison High School Environmental Science class, which included the use of the water trailer.

- Provided Sonja with information regarding the Gunnison High School sponsorship.
- **Professional Development:**
  - Attended a hands-on learning session regarding the organization's water trailer and gained a better understanding of its purpose, operation, and role in supporting Education and Outreach activities.

**Activities Anticipated 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2026:**

- Learning, Implementing & Training with Bev: Project Management Software *Monday.com*
- Receiving District contracting training from Bev

**MINUTES**  
**Taylor Local Users Group**  
**September 9, 2026, 9:00. a.m.**

**TLUG Attendees:**

**TLUG Representatives Present:**

Don Sabrowski, TLUG Chair  
Ernest Cockrell (Taylor Placer via Zoom)  
Andy Spann (Irrigation Interests via Zoom)  
Ryan Birdsey (Flatwater Recreation Interests via Zoom)  
David Fisher (Property Owners via Zoom)  
Mark Schumacher (Boating Interests)  
Roark Kiklevich (Wade Fishing Interests)  
Patrick Plumley (GAS Representative) \_

**Other Attendees:**

Sonja Chavez (UGRWCD)  
Angela Miller (UGRWCD)  
Beverly Richards (UGRWCD)  
Guilio Del Piccolo (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)  
John McCLOW (UGRWCD)

**Attendees Via Zoom:**

Ernie D. Cockrell  
David Gochis (Airborne Snow Observatory)  
Dustin Brown (Scenic River Tours)  
Andrew Limbach (US Bureau of Reclamation)  
Caleb Foy (Colorado River District)  
Dennis Cakebread (Taylor at Wilder Resident)  
Luke Mecklenburg (Colorado Attorney General's Office)  
Ben Ferminsky, Citizen  
Dirk Schumacher (Three Rivers)  
Bob Hurford (Colorado Division of Water Resources)  
Nathan Meyer, Citizen

## **I. Call to Order**

Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss flow releases for the fishery based upon current forecasts and reservoir storage conditions. General Counsel John McCloy said that the live storage at Blue Mesa Reservoir is currently at 161,899 acre-feet and is declining by approximately 2,000 acre-feet per day with inflows amounting to approximately 256 acre-feet. Total storage in the Aspinall unit is 290,898 acre-feet. Current releases out of Crystal Reservoir are 1,256 cfs with 256 cfs going into the Black Canyon. Understanding Blue Mesa storage levels and whether Uncompahgre would be utilizing their 2026 storage right are important in knowing when Taylor Park first fill would happen.

Bob Hurford said that the water currently being released from Crystal is not Uncompahgre Valley Water Users water from Blue Mesa. Uncompahgre is planning on reducing releases around September 15 as they ramp down for the winter season. Bob will have more information next week. He also said that first fill in Taylor will start on November 1.

## **II. Upper Gunnison Basin Water Supply – Beverly Richards, Water Supply Project Manager, UGRWCD**

Beverly said conditions have not changed since August. The entire County continues to experience drought conditions ranging from Severe (D2) to Exceptional (D4). For the month of August, drought conditions ranged from 10% to 70% of average and for the first seven days of September, precipitation has ranged from 10% to 90% of average. This puts the basin in the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest percentile on record for precipitation. Warm temperatures have continued into September. For this time frame, temperatures ranged from 2 to 6 degrees above normal. The Upper Gunnison basin experienced its warmest year on record for the 131-year period of record (1896-2026).

## **III. CBRFC and USBR Inflow Forecast Update – Andrew Limbach, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**

Andrew reported that the forecasts have consistently been overestimated inflow this year. The current forecast shows a possible 3,100 acre-feet of inflow for the next four months. Currently inflows are at 650 acre-feet and if this continues the inflow will be approximately 2,400 acre-feet which will be 600 below the September 1 forecast.

Don Sabrowski asked what the storage content would be if we kept the flows at the 70 cfs through the end of September and then went to 55 cfs in October. Andrew said if we keep the release schedule the same and we get the 3,000 full inflow that it is forecasted that we will end up with 49,300 acre-feet on October 31<sup>st</sup>. If September keeps tracking the way that it is tracking (i.e., not seeing inflows as forecasted), then it will be more like 48,700 acre-feet.

#### **IV. Taylor Reservoir WRF-Hydro Inflow Forecast Update – Dave Gochis, ASO, Inc.**

David Gochis says the forecast for the next 4-7 days is a little lighter and there is a slight chance of precipitation. Going out to 14 days, there are patterns of precipitation but only a weak chance. Both forecasts call for slight chances of weak, isolated showers, afternoon clouds, light accumulation, and cooling. The evapotranspiration demand is significantly ramping down and baseflow will level off as a result. August precipitation did produce some runoff but did little to augment streamflow and deeper soil moisture.

#### **V. Preliminary TLUG Draft Operational Release Recommendations**

Don Sabrowski asked Sonja how receptive the Four Parties would be to us falling slightly below the 50,000 acre-feet end of year storage content. She said that the Colorado District said the TLUG has done a good job communicating and doing our best to meet flow targets in this exception drought year and they felt it was also important to minimize additional impacts to the fishery if possible, so they did not have a big concern. She needs to follow up with Uncompahgre.

The release recommendations were as follows:

Guilio Del Piccolo requested that releases should remain at 70 cfs until the end of September to not place further stress on the fishery.

Mark Schumacher agreed that keeping the releases at 70 cfs through the end of September would be the best course of action for the health of the river.

Andy Spann agreed that maintaining current release would be the best course of action.

Roark Kiklevich said that the releases should remain at the 70 cfs to help the fish as much as possible.

Ryan Birdsey agreed that the releases should remain at 70 cfs as the impacts may be greater on the fishery if we reduce to 55 cfs.

David Fisher expressed support for keeping releases at 70 cfs.

Ernie Cockrell agreed that the release should remain at 70 cfs.

**A motion was made by Roark Kiklevich and seconded by Andy Spann to maintain the current release schedule at 70 cfs through the month of September. On October 1 releases are expected to drop to 55 cfs. The motion carried.**

Sonja will confirm Four Parties support for falling slightly below the previously approved 50,000 acre-feet end of year storage target in order to not cause further harm to the fishery.

## **VI. Miscellaneous Matters**

No miscellaneous matters

## **VII. Citizens' Comments**

Ben Furminsky commented on historical data and how he saw that permanent snow fields that existed up to 23 years ago no longer exist as they were important natural water storage resources. He was asking if that is something that we can monitor better and get better data. David Gochis said that they use some satellites that can detect the small changes in areas of snowpack and our ASO flights also help identify where we get higher elevation snowpack or pockets of snow.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting was adjourned by TLUG Chairman Don Sabrowski at 10:42 a.m. No additional meetings are scheduled for this water year but Sonja will continue to share CBRFC and WRF-Hydro forecasts at least every two weeks via email through October 31.

**MINUTES**

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Finance Committee

**DATE:** August 28, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Finance Committee Meeting

**Attendees:** John Perusek (Treasurer and Committee Chair); Sonja Chavez (General Manager); John McCloy (General Counsel); Beverly Richards (Office Manager/Senior Program Manager); Rebie Hazard (Committee Member); Brooke Zanetell (Committee Member).

**Meeting Purpose:** Review of 2027 Budget, discussion of District benefits, and District investment portfolio.

**Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair Perusek**

The following items were discussed as part of this committee meeting:

- Staff presented the draft 2027 Budget for committee input and consideration. Items of note that were discussed included changes to the Water Quality Monitoring line item which would include funding for Coal Creek Watershed Coalition and Lake Fork Valley Conservancy for water quality sampling they are currently performing. There was also a discussion of including funds for wildfire mitigation and additional funding for building renovation in 2027.
- Management presented a revised budgetary approach for managing salary and cost of living increases for 2027. This included the creation of a specific budget line item set-aside for increases rather than trying to rush the performance review process in order to meet the final November public budget meeting deadline.
- The committee reviewed the District's *Total Rewards Philosophy and Strategy (TRPS)*, and position pay ranges. In addition, management reminded the committee that there will be funding included in the 2027 budget for its triannual salary survey as outlined in the TRPS.
- The Committee reviewed current employee benefits including paid time off, retirement plans and insurance coverage. Management recommended an additional 2 hour per month PTO benefit increase for employees during their (0 - 3 years' service period) to bring the District in line with the industry and local government practice.

The Finance Committee agreed to provide a recommendation to the full Board of Directors to increase monthly paid time off for new employees within their first three years of service from 14 hours to 16 hours.

- Management have confirmed that there will be a 16% increase in medical insurance for 2027.
- Management informed the Committee that research showed that UGRWCD retirement benefits are healthier than other local entities but in-line with industry practice for Colorado water districts. No changes recommended.
- Management ensured that the committee was aware of other benefits including annual professional development budget (\$1,500 / FT employee), Work from Home Wednesdays (WFHW), dog friendly workplace, and the Employee Home Opportunity Program (EHOP). Management informed the committee that professional development funds would be targeted for individual coaching in 2027. WFHW was successful and well received by staff and management in 2025-26 and will continue in 2026-2027 (November – March). There are detailed requirements associated with WFHW. There are also clear guidelines for allowing dogs in the workplace.
- Management noted to the Finance Committee that at this time, we do not have childcare benefits and that a proposed benefit would be brought to the board for discussion and consideration at a later date in 2027.
- Staff appreciate the EHOP Program but home ownership and housing security at current prices remain a significant challenge without a dual income. Median home values within the City of Gunnison are around \$560,000 and from Almont to Crested Butte are \$1.22M. In addition, a quick local search on Zillow shows that rental prices for a 500-700 square foot 1-bedroom apartment are in the range of \$1,400 - \$1,600 / month (limited supply) and a 700 – 1,000 square foot 2-bedroom apartment is running \$1,600 - \$2,200+. In addition, our Gunnison County community pays 110.4 percent of the state average for our goods and services (Colorado River District 2024 Salary Survey).

Executive management recommended to the Finance Committee that staff members (other than the General Manager and General Counsel) be provided with a \$500 / month housing stipend benefit in order to retain, recruit and attract talent. This funding would be subject to payroll taxes but prevents this benefit from being subject to annual wage inflationary pressure and would not inflate other District benefits (i.e., it's kept separate from UGRWCD's pension contribution which is given as percent of gross salary).

The Finance Committee supported management's recommendation for the inclusion of a staff housing stipend benefit and agreed to bring it to the full board for discussion and consideration. Director Perusek will introduce the committee recommendation at the upcoming September 28, 2026 regular board meeting.

- Executive management provided updates on the District's investment portfolio which increased by nearly \$800,000 since August of 2025. The portfolio currently only has one bond remaining with an interest rate under 3%. This bond will mature on September 30, 2026, and alternative investments will be researched by management and the District Treasurer. Our current average return on investment is 3.8%.

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

**MINUTES****Education and Outreach (E/O) Committee Meeting  
Monday, September 21, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**

Present: Brooke Zanetell, UGRWCD Committee Chair; UGRWCD Directors Rosemary Carroll (via Zoom), Joellen Fonken (Via Zoom), and Camille Richard (via Zoom); Savannah Nelson (Sunshine Creatives, Via Zoom), and UGRWCD Staff Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, and Angela Miller.

**I. Chair Brooke Zanetell convened the meeting at 9:32 a.m. – Review of 2026 Education and Outreach Action Plan/Budget and Expenditures to Date**

- The committee reviewed and refined the 2027 action plan, focusing on diversifying outreach channels and improving the mini-grant review process. Key shifts include replacing E/O support from the Water Resources Fellow position with a dedicated contract communications specialist to enhance marketing and digital presence.

**II. Criteria for Mini-Grant Process**

- Committee directed staff to develop a simplified set of program criteria and review guidelines. In addition, the committee requests that staff provide a single collective staff recommendation with each grant application (founded on whether the funding request meets established grant criteria) in order to facilitate committee decision making and reduce email “chatter” or “opinions” on whether a project should be funded or not.

**III. Suggestions and Brainstorming**

- Director Fonken recommended we consider collaborating with the Food Pantry because of the nexus between water and food and the potential for tapping into their community base to provide water education. Sonja said she will reach out to the Director.
- Director Zanetell recommended we have advertisements and communication in both English and Spanish to reach more members of the community. The committee identified a need for a Cora or Spanish translator. City Council member Marisela Ballesteros was noted and Director Zanetell also has a contact that she will provide.
- The committee will continue annual support for the RMBL Youth Science Programs and Taylor Challenge, and they are open to supporting similar science programs in Lake City or Pitkin. Committee members will help provide contacts to staff.
- The district is exploring logo placement on high schools’ sports posters and banners at Western Colorado University football games.

**IV. Meeting Summary Recap and Action Items**

- Additional future meeting in October to discuss progress on items below.
  - Staff will draft some ideas on how to reach out to the senior 60+ community, Cora community, etc.
  - Provide a basic scope of work and budget for Sunshine Creatives (Savannah Nelson) for final committee approval.
  - Staff will research other organizations doing youth water education programs.
  - Work with committee on article ideas for Gunnison Country Times space.
  - Research KVNF: Staff will research the effectiveness and cost of KVNF radio station for reaching Lake City residents.
  - Work on developing alternate versions of our official logo for better visibility on advertising materials and advertising space.
  - Staff will draft a mini-grant review criteria document and present them to the Committee.
  - Staff will contact Scenic Rivers regarding the KBUT report and about co-sponsorship and sharing in expense.
  - Savannah Nelson is developing a public-facing event calendar on the website and staff will work on creating a process for submitting water-related events.
  - Staff continue outreach with high school principal and athletics director regarding gym and scoreboard sponsorship pricing.
  - Staff will coordinate with Katie Lawn (RMBL) to share best practices for youth science programming.

**V. Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

# RETURN TO GENERAL MANAGER

## 2027 Education and Outreach Action Plan and Budget - Draft Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

|                                                                                                     | \$ 66,150        | \$ 43,101             | \$ 23,049        | \$ 83,350         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| EDUCATIONAL FOCUS AREA                                                                              | 2026             | Actual Amount To date | Amount Remaining | Proposed for 2027 | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | # Individuals Reached | Updated Comments                                   |
| <b>ADVERTISING</b>                                                                                  |                  |                       |                  |                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                                                    |
| Radio - Year-round on KEJJ and KVLE                                                                 | \$ 3,000         | \$ 2,050              | \$ 950           | \$ 3,150          | Total budgeted amount for Radio Advertising - Total does not include KBUT Underwriting or KVNf. Added additional dollars for package specials during sporting events. Currently have special drought message - Expires 8/31/26 Increase  | 5000                  |                                                    |
| CB News and CB News Magazine(s)                                                                     | \$ 2,000         | \$ -                  | \$ 2,000         | \$ -              | Did not participate in CB Magazine                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 500                   |                                                    |
| GC Times and The Shopper (& Magazine)                                                               | \$ 2,000         | \$ 307                | \$ 1,693         | \$ 6,000          | This amount was for Drought Messaging                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1500                  |                                                    |
| Silver World                                                                                        | \$ 1,200         | \$ 540                | \$ 660           | \$ 1,260          | Weekly water report continues in Silverworld paper. Although this is a small paper with a small readership, it is one of the few ways we are able to reach our water users in Lake City, and the ads are inexpensive.                    | 100                   |                                                    |
| KBUT Underwriting                                                                                   | \$ 2,500         | \$ 2,592              | \$ (92)          | \$ -              | See Gunnison Country Times Look at packages from KBUT check on website - no call to action                                                                                                                                               | 500                   |                                                    |
| Video spot for Cattlemen's Days, website and other public events - <b>**NEW**</b>                   | \$ 10,000        | \$ 4,155              | \$ 5,845         | \$ -              | Have only paid Hayden \$4155 - needs to invoice for remainder of work                                                                                                                                                                    | 10000                 |                                                    |
| Video, Ad Campaigns                                                                                 |                  |                       |                  | \$ 7,500          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1500                  |                                                    |
| <b>Sub-Total Radio and Newspaper</b>                                                                | <b>\$ 20,700</b> | <b>\$ 9,644</b>       | <b>\$ 11,056</b> | <b>\$ 17,910</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                                                    |
| <b>GENERAL PUBLIC OUTREACH</b>                                                                      |                  |                       |                  |                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                                                    |
| Water Message Promotional Items                                                                     | \$ 5,000         | \$ 5,602              | \$ (602)         | \$ 6,000          | This includes bottles, bags, pens, lip balm, yard signs and banner display - Includes Water Day at the Capitol                                                                                                                           | 1500                  |                                                    |
| Mini-Grant Program                                                                                  | \$ 3,500         | \$ 590                | \$ 2,910         | \$ 3,500          | This was for Lead Homeschool Mini-Grant. Consider including as separate sponsorship outside mini-grant program                                                                                                                           | 3000                  |                                                    |
| Community Events                                                                                    | \$ -             | \$ -                  | \$ -             | \$ 5,000          | Miscellaneous Outreach Events TBD                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1500                  |                                                    |
| Sponsorships (Local)                                                                                | \$ 5,000         | \$ 3,000              | \$ 2,000         | \$ 3,000          | Funded \$1,000 each for Ice Masters Tourney, Rotary Fishing Tourney and Taylor Pike Fishing Derby.                                                                                                                                       | 1000                  |                                                    |
| Sponsorships (Regional)                                                                             | \$ -             | \$ -                  | \$ -             | \$ 3,600          | Annual Sponsorship of January and August Conferences                                                                                                                                                                                     | 400                   |                                                    |
| River Clean Up Program - possibly again in the Fall - premiere sponsorship event - Whitewater Park) | \$ 1,000         | \$ 371                | \$ 629           | \$ 500            | Funds spent to date were for Spring River Clean Up. Gunnison Waves initially proposed a second clean-up this fall, so I would recommend we leave this item in for 2026 but at a lesser amount since they have not used it all twice now. | 300                   |                                                    |
| Cattlemen's Days                                                                                    | \$ 6,500         | \$ 7,025              | \$ (525)         | \$ 6,500          | Paid \$6,500 for Golden Circle of Champions and \$500 for 4-H Barbecue and \$25 for Cattlemen's Parade                                                                                                                                   | 3000                  |                                                    |
| Ag Venture Sponsorship                                                                              | \$650            | \$ 452                | \$ 198           | \$ -              | Purchased seed packets for this event                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 300                   | Think of Deleting - Hannah                         |
| Gunnison and CB Chamber of Commerce Memberships                                                     | \$750            | \$ 685                | \$ 65            | \$ 750            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 3500                  | What does Membership Entail                        |
| Website Hosting                                                                                     | \$800            | \$ 1,263              | \$ (463)         | \$ 840            | This is Rob Strickland's charges for hosting the website, malware and WordPress subscription costs and any editing he does. Savannah will be able to do this under her contract. This has not been done yet.                             | N/A                   | Website hosting - IT Guys Maybe Savannah take over |
| Contract with Sunshine Creatives                                                                    | \$11,000         | \$ 6,470              | \$ 4,530         | \$ 25,000         | Website in process of being redesigned and should go live before the end of the year.                                                                                                                                                    | 10,000                | Strategic Pillar                                   |
| <b>Total General Public Outreach:</b>                                                               | <b>\$ 34,200</b> | <b>\$ 25,458</b>      | <b>\$ 8,742</b>  | <b>\$ 54,690</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                                                    |
| <b>SCHOOL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS</b>                                                              |                  |                       |                  |                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                                                    |
| Swimming Classes (Ongoing)                                                                          | \$ 750           | \$ -                  | \$ 750           | \$ 750            | We have not seen invoice for this item                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 400                   | Have Angela Call and see if still doing            |
| Water Book - GES, CBES, LCES 1st Grade - <b>**NEW BOOK**</b>                                        | \$ 2,000         | \$ 8,000              | \$ (6,000)       | \$ 1,000          | Paid an additional \$6,000 and \$2,000 for printing                                                                                                                                                                                      | 165                   |                                                    |
| Home School Groups                                                                                  | \$ -             | \$ -                  | \$ -             | \$ 500            | For the End of Year Event                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 35                    |                                                    |
| RMBL Youth Science Programs                                                                         | \$ 6,000         | \$ -                  | \$ 6,000         | \$ 6,000          | This will occur in Fall 2026 includes \$1,000 for Busing Support if needed                                                                                                                                                               | 180                   |                                                    |
| Taylor Challenge (Water education, scholarships, general sponsorship)                               | \$ 2,500         | \$ -                  | \$ 2,500         | \$ 2,500          | This will occur n August 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 120                   |                                                    |
| <b>Total School and Educational Programs:</b>                                                       | <b>\$ 11,250</b> | <b>\$ 8,000</b>       | <b>\$ 3,250</b>  | <b>\$ 10,750</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                                                    |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                                                                                 | <b>\$ 66,150</b> | <b>\$ 43,101</b>      | <b>\$ 23,049</b> | <b>\$ 83,350</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>44,500</b>         |                                                    |

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

**2027 Budget Work Session**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Office Manager  
Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** September 28, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** 2027 Budget Draft

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A revised draft of the 2027 budget for discussion can be accessed utilizing the link [HERE](#). Below is a summary of draft budget changes that have been made since the August 24, 2026 regular board meeting. Changes include:

- Income Line 4 – Property Tax – Based upon *preliminary* valuations received from Gunnison, Hinsdale and Saguache Counties. The totals from these preliminary valuations are \$2,159,161, \$116,080, and \$13,480 respectively.
- Income Line 5 – Reimbursed Income – This budget line is no longer being used recommendations received from our auditor. Any income received as reimbursement will be applied to individual expense line items moving forward.
- Income Line 7 – Watershed Implementation Outside Grants – Includes \$301,201 for income anticipated in 2027 from outside sources.
- Income Line 8 – Watershed Management Income - Revised amount now includes \$45,000 associated with the Lower Cochetopa Project completion date being moved into 2027. Funding source is 2022 CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant.
- Income Line 9 – Wet Meadows – Item increased from \$339,643 to 354,576 based revised amounts from the Wet Medows program.
- Income Line 10 – Water Quality Monitoring – Revised figure is based upon USGS \$38,530. Staff are still discussing possible program additions so this figure is not final.
- Expense Line 21 – Computer Expenses – Line item was increased from \$42,525 to \$45,300 due to additional computer replacement needed in 2027.

- Expense Line 24 – Spencer Avenue Annual Building Reserve Contribution – This line item will no longer be used. The \$10,000 reserve amount will be transferred within the company rather than treated as an expense per auditor’s recommendation.
- Expense Line 31 – Payroll Expense – This item increased from \$1,197,000 to \$1,272,045. The original amount was a preliminary estimate only using a 5% overall increase from the 2026 budget. The new amount includes specific amounts in the salary, medical insurance, staff development, and PTO payout sub-categories based upon additional information received from our benefit providers. In addition, rather than rush to complete performance reviews by November board meeting, management has created a budget sub-line item “pool” of funding for estimated cost of living and industry merit increase data research. Finally, this budget-line item includes the proposed \$500/month housing stipend for staff (other than executive management) which is being brought before the board for possible action.
- Expense Line 40 – Consulting/Engineering – Item increased from \$60,000 to \$70,000 to include additional possible reservoir modeling and Colorado Conservation Program analysis work.
- Expense Line 41 – Colorado Dust on Snow – Line item has been moved to the Regional Water Supply Improvement line item.
- Expense Line 42 – Coal Creek Watershed Coalition – Line item has been moved to the Water Quality Monitoring line item.
- Expense Line 47 – Lake Fork Valley Conservancy – Line item has been moved to the Water Quality Monitoring line item.
- Expense Line 49 – Public Education and Outreach – Item increased from \$73,952 to \$83,350. The original amount was based on an estimated 5% overall increase from the 2026 budget and the new amount is now based on refinements and management’s proposal to contract with a professional communications consultant to support education and outreach activities.
- Expense Line 50 – Regional Water Supply Improvement – Item was increased from \$836,983 to \$878,850. The original amount was based on a 5% overall increase from the 2026 budget. The refined figure includes specific amounts for cloudseeding and Taylor River modeling, and Ag Return Flow Study, and estimated amounts for Airborne Snow

Observatory (ASO) sub-categories. We are still working to refine partner contributions for airborne snow flights. The amount also now includes the Colorado Dust on Snow item which was moved to this category as part of our budget clean-up work.

- Expense Line 51 – Strategic Planning – Item was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and this will be used for any possible identified follow-up work that may need to be done on the Strategic Plan.
- Expense Line 53 – Watershed Implementation Outside Grants - Included \$301,201 for estimated expenses anticipated in 2027. Additional refinements are forthcoming.
- Expense Line 54 – Watershed Management - Revised amount of \$45,000 due to Lower Cochetopa Project completion being pushed into 2027. Source is CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant.
- Expense Line 55 – Wet Meadows – Item was revised creased from \$349,643 to \$359,567 based on revised amounts from the Wet Meadows program. The miscellaneous expenses category was reduced to \$5,00o based on historical expense amounts.
- Expense Line 56 – Water Quality Monitoring – Item increased from \$262,500 to \$269,000 to include Coal Creek Watershed Coalition monitoring and possible Lake Fork sub-basin monitoring.

# UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

General Fund Budget January 1 - December 31, 2027 - Draft V.4

|                                                                      | 2025<br>Actual      | 2026<br>Budget      | 2027<br>Budget      | Notes                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                                                  |                     |                     |                     |                                                                                                        |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>                                            |                     |                     |                     |                                                                                                        |
| 12 Admin Travel and Expenses                                         | \$ 24,615           | \$ 36,750           | \$ 38,588           |                                                                                                        |
| 13 Audit                                                             | \$ 7,950            | \$ 25,000           | \$ 26,250           |                                                                                                        |
| 14 Accounting Services                                               | \$ 41,164           | \$ 48,500           | \$ 50,925           |                                                                                                        |
| 15 BOD Expenses                                                      | \$ 7,669            | \$ 15,750           | \$ 16,538           |                                                                                                        |
| 16 BOD Mileage                                                       | \$ 2,281            | \$ 5,775            | \$ 6,064            |                                                                                                        |
| 17 BOD Mtg Fees                                                      | \$ 8,500            | \$ 26,400           | \$ 26,400           |                                                                                                        |
| 18 Bonding and Insurance                                             | \$ 25,798           | \$ 30,000           | \$ 31,500           |                                                                                                        |
| 19 Building Rep/Maintenance                                          | \$ 19,883           | \$ 10,000           | \$ 10,000           |                                                                                                        |
| 20 CAM                                                               | \$ 6,396            | \$ 7,500            | \$ 7,875            |                                                                                                        |
| 21 Computer Expenses                                                 | \$ 33,691           | \$ 40,500           | \$ 45,300           | Increased for Computer Purchases                                                                       |
| 22 Copier Expenses                                                   | \$ 3,570            | \$ 7,000            | \$ 7,350            |                                                                                                        |
| 23 County Treasurers' Fees                                           | \$ 64,876           | \$ 75,000           | \$ 78,750           |                                                                                                        |
| 24 Spencer Avenue Business Park Annual Buidling Reserve Contribution | \$ 10,000           | \$ 10,000           | \$ -                | No Longer Using                                                                                        |
| 25 Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions                                  | \$ 18,014           | \$ 18,350           | \$ 19,652           |                                                                                                        |
| 26 Legal Publications                                                | \$ 4,411            | \$ 5,000            | \$ 5,000            |                                                                                                        |
| 27 Manager's Discretionary Budget                                    | \$ 27,293           | \$ 25,000           | \$ 25,000           |                                                                                                        |
| 28 Meeting Expenses                                                  | \$ 3,322            | \$ 5,000            | \$ 7,500            | Added add. Based YTD for 2026                                                                          |
| 29 Office Cleaning                                                   | \$ 8,381            | \$ 8,000            | \$ 8,400            |                                                                                                        |
| 30 Office Supplies & Expenses                                        | \$ 17,581           | \$ 12,000           | \$ 12,600           |                                                                                                        |
|                                                                      | \$ 1,018,614        | \$ 1,140,000        | \$ 1,272,045        | 16% Medical Increase Confirmed and increase staff development, added housing stipend and salary survey |
| 31 Payroll Expense                                                   |                     |                     |                     |                                                                                                        |
| 32 Postage                                                           | \$ 1,638            | \$ 2,000            | \$ 2,100            |                                                                                                        |
| 33 Telephone                                                         | \$ 16,341           | \$ 6,000            | \$ 6,000            |                                                                                                        |
| 34 Utilities                                                         | \$ 9,493            | \$ 10,000           | \$ 10,000           |                                                                                                        |
| 35 Vehicle Expenses                                                  | \$ 28,021           | \$ 29,500           | \$ 8,500            |                                                                                                        |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>                                      | <b>\$ 1,409,501</b> | <b>\$ 1,599,025</b> | <b>\$ 1,719,837</b> |                                                                                                        |
| <b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>                                        |                     |                     |                     |                                                                                                        |
| 36 Aquatic Nuisance Species                                          | \$ 3,595            | \$ 20,000           | \$ 20,000           |                                                                                                        |
| 37 Asp Subordination Report                                          | \$ 5,604            | \$ 7,500            | \$ 7,875            |                                                                                                        |
| 38 Aspinall Contracts                                                | \$ 21,579           | \$ 24,000           | \$ 25,200           |                                                                                                        |
| 39 Gunnison County Hazardous Waste                                   | \$ 2,000            | \$ 2,000            | \$ 4,000            |                                                                                                        |
| 40 Consulting/Engineering                                            | \$ 28,154           | \$ 50,000           | \$ 70,000           | Increased WWG for Reservoir Modeling and Colorado Conservation Program                                 |
| 41 Colorado Dust on Snow                                             | \$ 3,500            | \$ 3,500            | \$ -                | moved Regional Water Supply                                                                            |
| 42 Coal Creek Watershed Coalition                                    | \$ 17,000           | \$ 17,000           | \$ -                | Moved WQQMP                                                                                            |
| 43 District Grant Program                                            | \$ 262,077          | \$ 446,420          | \$ 657,728          |                                                                                                        |
| 44 Gunnison Conservation District                                    | \$ -                | \$ 10,000           | \$ 10,000           |                                                                                                        |
| 45 Gunnison River Festival                                           | \$ 12,000           | \$ 13,000           | \$ 13,000           |                                                                                                        |
| 46 Endangered Fish Recovery Program                                  | \$ 3,750            | \$ 3,750            | \$ 3,750            |                                                                                                        |
| 47 Lake Fork Conservancy                                             | \$ -                | \$ 10,000           | \$ -                | moved WQQMP                                                                                            |
| 48 Lake San Cristobal Expenses                                       | \$ 13,464           | \$ 13,464           | \$ 13,464           |                                                                                                        |
| 49 Public Education and Outreach                                     | \$ 34,921           | \$ 70,430           | \$ 83,350           | Increased based on 2027 Work Plan                                                                      |
| 50 Regional Water Supply Improvement                                 | \$ 542,008          | \$ 800,627          | \$ 878,580          | Cloudseeding Actual - CODOS                                                                            |
| 51 Strategic Planning                                                | \$ 142              | \$ 61,500           | \$ 10,000           | Increased for any add. Plan work                                                                       |
| 52 Taylor Park Project Expense                                       | \$ 7,436            | \$ 8,200            | \$ 12,000           |                                                                                                        |
| 53 Watershed Implementation Outside Grants Expense                   | \$ 30,486           | \$ 116,800          | \$ 352,001          | Included NFWF and B2E                                                                                  |
| 54 Watershed Management Expense                                      | \$ 157,144          | \$ 105,921          | \$ 97,172           | Added back in Woodcock Construction                                                                    |
| 55 Wet Meadows Expense                                               | \$ 98,144           | \$ 359,187          | \$ 359,576          | Reduced WM Misc to \$5,000                                                                             |
| 56 Water Quality Monitoring                                          | \$ 182,321          | \$ 250,000          | \$ 269,000          | Included CCWC and LFVC                                                                                 |
| <b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES</b>                                  | <b>\$ 1,425,326</b> | <b>\$ 2,393,299</b> | <b>\$ 2,886,696</b> |                                                                                                        |
| 57 Capital Outlay Expense                                            | \$ 21,553           | \$ 65,000           | \$ 25,000           |                                                                                                        |
| 58 Contingency                                                       | \$ -                | \$ 24,000           | \$ 24,000           |                                                                                                        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                                                | <b>\$ 2,856,379</b> | <b>\$ 4,081,324</b> | <b>\$ 4,655,533</b> |                                                                                                        |
| <b>REVENUES UNDER/(OVER) EXPENDITURES</b>                            |                     | <b>\$ -</b>         | <b>\$ -</b>         |                                                                                                        |

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

## **Miscellaneous Matters**

# **AGENDA ITEM 10**

## **Citizens Comments**

# **AGENDA ITEM 11**

## **Future Meetings**

## FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- UGRWCD Board of Directors Meeting - September 28, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
- USGS Presentation to Stockgrowers-Ag Return Flow-September 29, 2026-5:00 p.m.
- Staff Culture Session Strategic Planning - October 14, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.
- Feedback Integration Strategic Planning - October 19, 2026 - 12:00 p.m.
- CRWCD Quarterly Board Meeting - October 20-21, 2026
- UGSSC Meeting - October 22, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.
- UGRWCD Board of Directors Meeting - October 26, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
- Mayors and Managers Meeting - November 5, 2026 - 12:00 p.m.
- Veterans Day Holiday - Office Closed - November 11, 2026
- UGRWCD Board of Directors Meeting - Regular and Public Meeting - November 23, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Holiday - Office Closed - November 26-27, 2026

# **AGENDA ITEM 12**

## **Summary of Meeting Action Items**

# **AGENDA ITEM 13**

## **Adjournment**