



Grand County

Colorado

MAY 11, 2021

Photo courtesy of
Thomas Johnson

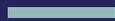
COMMISSIONERS Corner

News & Updates from Grand County's Board of County Commissioners



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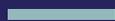
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RE-DISTRICTING: JOIN THE CONVERSATION

In a letter dated May 5, Club 20's Executive Director Christian Reece addressed the prospective re-districting that would remove Grand County from Colorado's 2nd District and place the County in Colorado's 3rd District. (Club 20 is a nonpartisan voice for the 22 counties of western Colorado.) The letter was discussed Tuesday during the Board Business agenda item.

Commissioner Linke re-interated what Reece stated in the letter: Re-districting is **not** done to align counties with similar political views. Rather, Congressional District lines are re-drawn every 10 years to ensure communities are aligned - and represented - based on interests and values.

Colorado's 2nd District is currently comprised of Jefferson, Clear Creek, Boulder, Larimer, Grand, Vail and Summit counties. The 3rd (and geographically largest) District comprises all of the Western Slope counties, including Jackson, Routt, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Garfield, Pitkin, Gunnison and Pueblo.

"The Western Slope counties share interests on policies such as water, federal lands, forestry and wildfires, agriculture, environment, infrastructure, and outdoor recreation," Reece stated in the letter.

The 2021 re-districting proposals include Grand shifting to Colorado 3, and Pueblo to Colorado 2. Redistricting decisions are made by a 12-member independent, bipartisan commission which considers maps drawn by nonpartisan legislative staff. The 2020 census also plays a significant role, as population shifts are also taken into account when districts are re-drawn.

Club 20, Action 22 and Pro 15 - have submitted a proposed re-districting map, and are encouraging public comment. Re-districting is a conversation ALL citizens can participate in!

To learn more, submit comments, and listen to upcoming meetings, visit <https://redistricting.colorado.gov/>.

Meeting minutes, support materials
and full audio are available at:
co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter
co.grand.co.us/Archive

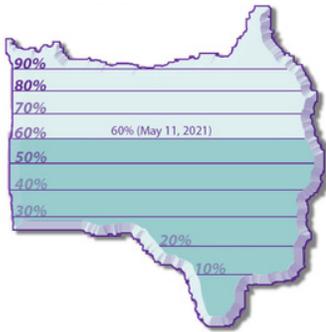
Congratulations!

Road & Bridge Superintendent **Chris Baer** was recognized for 25 years of service to Grand County. Chris joined the County as an equipment operator, worked his way up the ladder to become a foreman, and was appointed Superintendent by the BOCC in 2016.



Chris Baer celebrates 25 of service to the Grand County community.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE



Case Update

Current COVID case count in Grand County:

- Last 3 days: **Zero**
- Last 7 days: **8**
- Last 2 weeks: **29**
- No additional variant cases have been identified (holding at 20 to date)

Grand County's current positivity rate is **4.8%, or 50.9 per 100,000**. While our numbers are continuing to trend downward, Public Health encourages diligence: **Once we are able to demonstrate a trend of 35 cases per 100,000 (defined as staying at or below 35 per 100,000 for 7 consecutive days), we qualify for exemption from the State's mask orders.**

Vaccine Update

Vaccines administered by all Grand County providers:

- Number of shots given since December 22, 2020: 15,417
- Number of shots given in last 7 days: 824
- Vaccine immunity: 59.6%
 - Total including natural immunity: 60%

Vaccine immunity percentage is calculated based on Grand County residents ages 16 and older based on 2019 state demographer data. A recent analysis of the State database by ZIP code indicates about 90% of vaccines administered in Grand County have been given to residents (the remaining 10% to non-residents).

J&J, Moderna Now Available at all GCPH Clinics

Grand County Public Health has resumed offering Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine. **To make an appointment for a vaccine, visit www.co.grand.co.us/vaccine.**

MILLER'S INN PURCHASE WAIVER OPTION CONSIDERED

Sitting as the Grand County Housing Authority, the Board discussed the notice received from Miller's Inn / Balcony House (unit 9) owner of intent to sell. Specifically, the Board discussed whether to exercise the County's purchase option for the rent-controlled property, or to release that option and allow the owner to sell the property.

Commissioners Cimino and Manguso expressed an interest in exercising the purchase option, and using the property either as housing for a County employee, or extending the unit as an affordable housing option for a smaller County employer. Commissioner Linke did not support exercising the purchase option, stating that he did not think this particular property solves the (affordable housing) problem.

Housing Authority Operations Manager **Sheena Darland** opened the discussion with a recommendation of allowing the owner to sell the unit, and not exercising the County's purchase option. The discussion ended with the Board tabling the conversation; a workshop on the subject will be scheduled for next week. The unit's owner stated he will submit a retraction, and will not re-submit a request to sell until the Board has had an opportunity to discuss the subject in more length.

FOREST SERVICE IMPLEMENTING FOOD STORAGE CLOSURE ORDER

During a seasonal update, U.S. Forest Service Sulphur District Ranger **Shoshana Cooper** stated that, anticipating a very busy summer for the County's public lands, the U.S.F.S. will be implementing a **Food Storage Closure Order** on developed recreation sites in an attempt to limit human/bear interactions.

The order requires visitors to store food and other scented products (like toothpaste) in bear resistant containers and out of sight in closed and locked vehicles. To learn more about Bear Resistant Food Storage, visit www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/arp/alert-notice.



The Forest Service will also be implementing a camping closure along the half-mile of Vasquez and Little Vasquez Creek roads, beginning at the forest boundary. The area will STILL be open for recreational day use, but not for overnight camping.

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

Emergency Manager **Joel Cochran** provided an update of the Office's work with FEMA and Southern Baptist related to debris clean-up on private property in the East Troublesome Fire burn scar area. Southern Baptist will be in Grand County May 19-21 for site assessments, and the work force is scheduled to arrive June 4.

Grand Foundation Executive Director **Megan Ledin** provided a volunteer update, which included the announcement that a \$125,000 grant has been awarded by the Wildfire Counsel to assist with chipping and hazardous tree removal. There are still 18 families that need housing due to being displaced by the East Troublesome Fire. Mountain Family Center is assisting those families with rent. The Grand Foundation has awarded \$1 million to date related to wildfire recovery.

Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** stated that letters have begun being mailed to property owners in Area B regarding project starts. The County is in discussion with NRCS regarding reimbursement requests for Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) projects. A site visit with stakeholders and property owners affected by the Williams Fork Fire is scheduled for May 24.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS...

- Weekly vouchers and wire payments presented by Finance Director **Curtis Lange** were approved.
- Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** presented three items:
 - Trail Ridge Marina Liquor License Renewal request was approved
 - The original Electronic Recording Technology Board Grant application approved by the BOCC listed incorrect dates; an letter of acceptance with the correct dates was presented, approved and authorized for the BOCC Chair to sign
 - Clerk & Recording Departmental revenue is up 32% year-over-year for April, and 28% year-to-date. Commissioner Linke asked for the same statistics comparing 2019 with 2021
- Road & Bridge Superintendent **Chris Baer** presented an updated contract with Accord Asphalt to include work on County Rd 49.
 - The additional work increased the contract amount by \$112,000.
 - Road & Bridge also received approval to use 20% of the department's vacancy savings to provide wage adjustments for existing employees and current open positions.
- Undersheriff **Wayne Schafer** presented a contract between Mountain Parks Electric and the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$39,583 to run electric service to the radio tower site on County Road 446. The service contract was approved.
- Community Development Director **Robert Davis** presented a staff member compensation question for discussion.
- Human Resources Director **Colleen Reynolds** presented an update of the job assessment work that has been in progress with Evergreen Solutions, LLC.
- Human Services Director **Deb Ruttenberg** presented an annual service contract with the State of Colorado for use of an income verification tool. The contract was approved.
- Treasurer **Frank DeLay** presented the year-to-date budget and investment report, and stated that nearly 75% of property tax has been collected to date. The remaining 25% is expected by June.
- A public hearing for the Rotary Club of Granby for a Liquor License Special Events Permit was cancelled due to no remonstrance (opposition). The Rotary Club was granted a liquor license for their concessionaire dates at the Flying Heels Arena.
- Resolution 2021-1-29 regarding reduced permit fees for homeowners affected by the East Troublesome Fire was amended to include commercial structures and permits in the affected area. Commercial permits already issued will be refunded \$500.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

County Manager **Ed Moyer's** update included:

- The Pole Creek Valley Owner's Association submitted a letter of opposition to the development of the Fraser Valley Parkway. At this time, only Task One - archival research - has been approved.
 - Metcalf Archeological has been retained to perform Task One, which does NOT include physical visits to private property.
- Economic Development Coordinator **DiAnn Butler** has been working with the Wireless Research Center (WRC) regarding a Digital Economic Resilience Program. The topic is on the BOCC Agenda for June 1.
- Staff has been working with Denver Water regarding the processed materials that are being received at the Benson Pit on County Rd. 5 - which is adjacent to the Road & Bridge shop, and is property leased from the Denver Water Board.
 - The Processed Materials Agreement with Denver Water needs updated to include materials being accepted from The Ponds in Fraser.
- Referencing CDOT's intent to complete a topo and survey this summer regarding Red Dirt Hill, the County is exploring the possibility of implementing an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) to accelerate the work on that stretch of Hwy 40.