



## COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



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## DEBRIS REMOVAL BEGINNING THIS WEEK

Office of Emergency Management Director **Joel Cochran** announced that Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has completed about 120 site assessments of properties in the East Troublesome Fire burn area. Properties in need of assistance with debris removal were marked with stakes flagged with yellow tape.

The team drew maps of the sites, identified and cleared locations for roll-off dumpsters, and provided information to property owners for items (such as destroyed vehicles) that SBDC can't dispose of. Properties where owners still need assistance sifting for keepsakes were also flagged.

Debris teams will return June 4 to begin work on 65 confirmed job sites. Twenty properties were identified that weren't originally on the team's assessment list. If owners weren't able to be contacted, SBDC staff left information in plastic bags attempting to reach the owners.

### About Southern Baptist

Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief is the Colorado chapter of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. SBDR is a faith-based relief organization that helps meet the needs of communities faced with disaster through debris removal, hot meals, laundry service, and more.



While their workforce is volunteer, they arrive on scene trained, and credentialed (all volunteers are required to have a background check and health insurance). To learn more, visit [coloradodr.org](http://coloradodr.org), or call 970-531-3776.

## EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION

Water Quality Specialist **Katherine Morris** gave an update about Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funding, project status, and natural resource information for both the Williams Fork Fire and East Troublesome Fire burn areas:

- Two funding allocations have been made to date
  - Area B has received \$2,170,322 (excludes required 12.5% match)
  - Total project costs for Area B are estimated at \$5.3 million
  - Area A has not yet received funding; project cost estimate for Area A is \$29 million
- Morris stressed that no guarantees have been made regarding future funding, so together with Northern Water and other stakeholders, projects are being prioritized.
- An RFQ for construction work in Area B was released and posted last week. **Interested contractors can find the RFQ at [co.grand.co.us/bids](http://co.grand.co.us/bids), and under the "Doing Business" tab on the County's website.**

Meeting minutes, support materials and full audio are available at:  
[co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter](http://co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter)  
[co.grand.co.us/Archive](http://co.grand.co.us/Archive)

# PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Grand County Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** gave a positive - and final - update to the BOCC Tuesday. (It was decided that, as long as case counts and other COVID statistics continue to trend downward, the standing COVID-19 Update agenda item was no longer needed. Baker will provide the BOCC with updates as needed going forward.)

COVID-19 case counts continued their downward trajectory through the holiday weekend. As of June 1, Grand County had:

- 4 cases in 7 days
- 10 cases in 14 days
- 1.39 positivity rate

Baker stated that while Grand County's Public Health Order related to COVID-19 has been rescinded, the County is still following the State's Public Health Order - which was amended on June 1:

- Face covering exemptions were changed from 10 years and younger to 11 years and younger.
- Outbreak definition was amended for all situations that are not a healthcare or correctional facility (which remains at 2 confirmed cases equaling an outbreak), to 5 or more positive cases with a PCR or other molecular test. Employee housing, residence halls, camp cabins, and correctional facility cells are not considered households. An outbreak can be declared if 5 different households are positive with exposure connections.

## Testing

Public Health is reducing its testing schedule, as ample testing options are available throughout the County. Baker reminded Commissioners that a PCR test is still considered "the gold standard" for individuals experiencing COVID symptoms.

## Vaccinations

Due to the holiday weekend, vaccination statistics were delayed, however, Baker estimated that Grand County is still at about 60% vaccination immunity.

**GCPH's June vaccine clinic schedule is now available at [co.grand.co.us/calendar](http://co.grand.co.us/calendar).** The June schedule includes evenings at Wolf Park in Winter Park, and the Granby Farmers Market. Registration is still recommended, but walk-ins are welcome.

June 2021 Grand County Public Health Vaccine Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hot Sulphur Springs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Hot Sulphur Springs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	9	10 Winter Park / Fraser 4 - 7 p.m.	11	12
13	14	15 Hot Sulphur Springs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	16 Granby Farmers Market 5 - 7 p.m.	17 Winter Park / Fraser 4 - 7 p.m.	18	19
20	21	22 Hot Sulphur Springs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	23	24 Winter Park / Fraser 4 - 7 p.m.	25	26
27	28	29 Hot Sulphur Springs 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	30 Granby Farmers Market 5 - 7 p.m.			

# ADDITIONAL BUSINESS...

- Grand Lake Golf Course's request to renew its Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License was approved
- EMS Chief **Robert Good's** request to re-hire a full-time employee within a 13-week window was approved
- Airport Supervisor **Josh Schroeder** presented one item for approval and one item for discussion:
  - A Notice of Award to award the taxilane development project to the contractor that submitted the lowest bid was approved with no discussion
  - The Airport Advisory Committee would like to modify terms of hangar leases to be more attractive to lessees. Proposed changes included extending lease terms from 25 years to 50 years, and clarifying language about insurance. Commissioners were supportive of making revisions.
- Community Development received approval of Resolution 2017-7-40PA 1041, Permit Amendment to the County Road 50 Homeowners Association

# SALES TAX REVENUE UP



Finance Director **Curtis Lange** reported that sales tax revenue is up 14% from one year ago (1Q2020) - but noted March of 2020 is when everything shut down due to COVID-19. Compared with the same period for 2019, Grand County's sales tax revenue is up 27%.

## MANAGER'S UPDATE

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

- Grand County Housing Authority (and Grand County Public Health) will no longer be standing agenda items; each department will request to be added to the agenda when needed.
- Moyer stated he had a conversation with Grand Fire Chief Brad White regarding potential shared space needs of EMS, Sheriff's Office, and Search and Rescue within Grand Fire's proposed North Station.
- County Road 522 (Fraser Valley Parkway) Task One: Archival Research is due this week.
- Property owners adjacent to Aspen Pine Estates have expressed complaints about fencing that is taking place that restricts wildlife movement and is in violation of the Aspen Pine Estates plat.
  - Some property owners placed buck rail fencing outside of their building envelopes or on or near property lines citing safety concerns about snowmobilers in the area running into foundations and other debris that was destroyed by the East Troublesome Fire. The County Manager has been in communication with all parties.
  - The Subdivision plat and covenants allow for fencing building envelopes, but not on property lines. The HOA will be in contact with CPW; if there are any fencing changes allowed, the Plat will need to be amended.
- Moyer sought approval from the BOCC to authorize the Chair and/or the Manager to submit Congressionally Directed Spending requests for: 1) U.S. Forest Service funding for East Troublesome and Cameron Peak fire recovery and restoration (90% of the burn areas in both fires are mostly USFS public land), 2) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program project funding for both Fires, and 3) Windy Gap – Colorado River Connectivity Channel, including execution of any Letters of Support necessary. The CDS requests and letters of support are time sensitive (it has been requested by this Friday). The BOCC motion was approved.

## FLYING HEELS ARENA IMPROVEMENTS

Representing Flying Heels Arena Association, **Tish Linke** requested approval of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) Application, and gave an overview of projects to be completed by the organization using the requested funds.

FHAA requested \$35,000 (the organization will contribute an additional \$700) to complete projects at the north end of the Flying Heels Arena, including:

- New sheep and goat catch pens
- Relocation of livestock pens to the east side of the arena and increasing spectator seating on the arena's west side
- Fixing an electric pole at the arena's north end

County Manager **Ed Moyer** stated that allowing these projects to be managed and performed by the Association removes a tremendous burden from the County's Road & Bridge department. During discussion of the motion, Commissioner Cimino proposed that contribution of the CTF funds be divided as follows: \$5,000 from District 1, and \$15,000 / each from Districts 2 and 3. The motion was approved with the unequal split.



Ms. Linke recognized three first-year members of the Middle Park Roping Club who qualified last weekend for the National Finals Rodeo in Iowa: Stran Lechman (blue shirt), Rudy Mendiola Jr. (red shirt) and Foster Krempin (not pictured). Mason Neese (plaid shirt) is Rudy's roping partner. **Congratulations, boys!**

*Photo courtesy Sami Lechman*

## DIGITAL ECONOMIC RESILIENCE PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Together with Economic Development Coordinator **DiAnn Butler**, representatives from **WRC** gave a presentation about a Digital Economic Resilience Program for Grand County. WRC is a not-for-profit organization headquartered in North Carolina with offices in Winter Park.

The firm asked Commissioners to designate \$250,000 (\$500,000 total) from American Recovery Act funds for two initiatives to be led by WRC: A Digital Workforce Training Center to train individuals in work-ready skills and up-training local businesses to become more efficient and effective in the digital marketplace; and Colorado ForestTech Center, a national research, demonstration and implementation model for early detection and mitigation of wildfire risks with the use of wireless sensors, autonomous drones, and wildfire and forest safety technologies.

Commissioners and staff had lengthy discussion about the presentation topics, and how American Recovery Act funds can be spent by municipalities. County Attorney **Christopher Leahy** and Finance Director **Curtis Lange** each expressed hesitancy about committing the funds requested by WRC without further research and assurance from the State and Federal government that it would be an acceptable use of the funds.