



COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



Highway 40 | Red Dirt Hill

CDOT anticipates having a topographical survey of U.S. Highway 40 between Granby and Tabernash (Red Dirt Hill) completed this fall. The survey is needed to design safety improvements for this stretch of highway through Grand County.

In this newsletter:

Short Term Rental Discussion

Fire Recovery Update | Page 2

Drought Preparedness Plan | Page 3

Manager's Update | Page 3

Board Business | Page 3

Additional Business | Page 3

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

August 10 BOCC Workshops:

Independent Board of Health*

**Time to be determined, and subject to change*

Final agendas are posted by the Friday
ahead of Tuesday BOCC meetings at:
www.co.grand.co.us/AgendaCenter

SHORT TERM RENTAL DISCUSSION

Following the July 27 Workshop about Short Term Rentals (STRs), during which Community Development gave a presentation that included the current number of STRs operating both legally and illegally in unincorporated Grand County, the BOCC continued the discussion regarding a possible moratorium on new STR applications, permits and renewals.

In addition to hearing from numerous property management company owners and operators, Community Development shared "pros" and "cons" of a moratorium:

PROs

- Sends a strong message to owners and prospective buyers to properly register the property
- Overall revenue gain, assuming permit fees would be raised during the moratorium
- Opportunity to re-organize the fee structure and consider funneling a portion of revenue into affordable housing

CONS

- Inability to raise compliance rate during a moratorium; many unregistered units may continue to operate
- Revenues from the program will halt during the moratorium period
- Moratoriums require time to draft legal language, and the County may incur pushback from those already renting; the costs may outweigh the worth of a planning pause

In the week following the Workshop (July 28 through August 2), Community Development received 65 applications for new Short Term Rental licenses. Due to additional enforcement and compliance matters, staff did not recommend the BOCC enact a moratorium.

The BOCC postponed a vote on a possible STR moratorium for 30 days in order to gather additional facts and verify conflicting information. The topic is tentatively scheduled for September 7, which will also include the STR annual review previously scheduled for August 24. An STR staffing work group and work plan goals discussion is scheduled for August 10.

AGENDA CHANGE

At the request of the applicant, the Public Hearing regarding Special Use Permit for Byers Peak Properties, LLC Mobile Concrete Plant was continued from 1 p.m. August 3 to August 10 at 1 p.m.

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

Emergency Management Director **Joel Cochran** gave a fire recovery update: Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams de-mobilized over the weekend and returned home after helping 73 homeowners impacted by the East Troublesome Fire sift and remove debris from their properties. Four jobs remain for sifting; a smaller crew will return later in August to complete those.



Cochran stated that fire recovery work has stabilized, and the recovery efforts have matured. He recommended discontinuing the weekly Fire Recovery Updates, and including any updates in the Departmental updates as needed going forward. That request received "thumbs up" from Commissioners.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

As the final step in the Assessor's process for property value disputes, sitting as the Board of Equalization, Commissioners approved and signed 73 resolutions regarding the outcome of the protest hearings related to property valuations issued this year by the Assessor's Office.

GRAND COUNTY DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Water Quality Specialist **Katherine Morris** presented Grand County's Drought Preparedness Plan, and led a Workshop discussion on the topic.

Despite the recent monsoon rains, Grand County remains in Severe to Exceptional Drought conditions. With these conditions, fire seasons are extended, large fires can develop, reservoirs are extremely low and pasture conditions worsen.

The Drought Preparedness Committee, comprised of at least five members from Stakeholder Groups, review drought indicators and triggers monthly, and choose appropriate responses. Volunteers from the group then work to educate the public about the public's roles and responsibilities to save and conserve water.

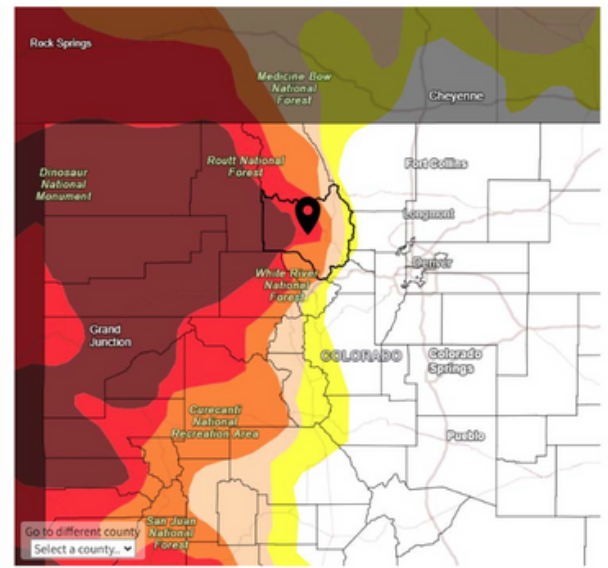
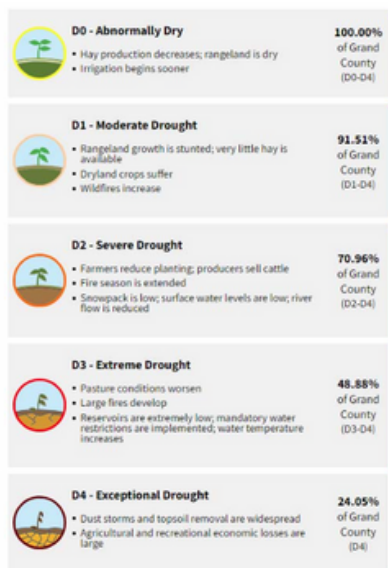
In our current Drought Stage, the following actions are recommended:

- Outdoor water no more than one day a week between the hours of 6 p.m. and 10 a.m.
- Sports fields and parks should work to reduce water usage by 20%
- Avoid new landscape establishment June through August
- Municipal water providers may choose to use drought pricing

EVERY DROP COUNTS

Small conservation efforts can have a big impact on our collective water use:

- Continue watering trees, shrubs and perennials, but during overnight hours that minimize evaporation.
- Avoid re-filling hot tubs and pools.
- When washing cars or exterior windows, use a bucket, and a handheld hose with a nozzle that shuts off when it not in use.
- Only ask for water at a restaurant if you intend to drink it.
- Install low-flow plumbing fixtures in your home.
- Repair leaking or dropping exterior faucets and sprinkler systems.



MANAGER'S UPDATE

Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** provided the following updates:

- A contract with CDOT for Red Dirt Hill survey and design safety improvements will be presented to the BOCC August 10. The survey will cost approximately \$200,000; Grand County has committed \$400,000 to the project. CDOT is anticipating the survey to be completed this fall, with preliminary engineering and design work to be completed in 2022.
- The County is currently conducting a poll to solicit opinions on the re-naming of the Gore Range to the Nuchu Range. The re-naming request was submitted to the U.S. Board of Geographic Naming by Summit County following their BOCC's adoption of a resolution in 2020. The poll will be live through August 20, with findings and comments presented to Commissioners at the August 24 meeting. County opinions are due to the Geographic Naming Board by September 15.
- Within the next couple weeks, Manager Moyer will present the Windy Gap Firing project MOU.
- With regard to the recent rains and flood activity: EWP members have been meeting with property owners this week to review engineering designs in an attempt to get projects started.

County Attorney **Christopher Leahy** gave an update regarding the **Moffat Tunnel Lease**:

- Staff was given direction to draft a letter from Grand and Gilpin County Commissioners to the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) asking to be included early in the negotiation process regarding renewal of the Moffat Tunnel Lease.

BOARD BUSINESS

Workshop Policy

Commissioners reviewed a draft of a Workshop Policy to ensure the transparent operation of local government by continuing to livestream workshops via Granicus (the technology employed to record and post meeting audio) and WebEx when they take place inside the BOCC meeting room. The Commissioners would like to remind citizens that the public is **always** welcome to participate in meetings and workshops in person - even if the meetings take place outside the BOCC meeting room in other locations.

Commissioners' upcoming meetings are posted in "Public Notices" on the homepage of Grand County's website (www.co.grand.co.us).

Elected Official Term Limit Ballot Question

Commissioners did not vote on whether to include a question on the local elections 2021 ballot regarding term limits for all elected officials; they would like to hear comments from the public prior to voting. **A vote on the topic has been scheduled for August 17.** The Certification of the ballot for the 2021 election must be to the County Clerk by September 3, 2021.

Grand County's elected officials are: Commissioners (*currently limited to 3 consecutive terms*), Sheriff, Assessor, Clerk & Recorder, Treasurer, Coroner and Surveyor.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- Weekly vouchers and wire payments were approved with no discussion.
- Airport Supervisor **Josh Schroeder** presented a Ground Lease for Hangar No. 24 at the Granby Airport / Emily Warner Field for approval. **Approved**
- On behalf of Road & Bridge, Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** presented an amendment to a services contract with Souder Miller & Associates for work performed at the Granby and Kremmling land fills in the amount of \$25,020.00. **Not approved / staff will bring the contract amendment back August 10 with additional information.**
- Grand County Human Services Director **Deb Ruttenberg** presented five contracts for approval:
 - A contract with the State to implement the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program
 - A Core services contract with the Denver Children's Home for day treatment services for an at-risk youth
 - A Core Services contract with East Grand School District to provide Day Treatment Alternative Core Services and Life Skills Coaching at Middle Park High School
 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Brighter World Child Advocacy Center and multiple agencies related to child abuse allegation investigations
 - An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the State and Jackson County for Grand County to provide Human Services programs to Jackson County
 - **Sitting as the Board of Human Services, the BOCC approved all as presented**
- Via email, Sheriff **Brett Schroetlin** stated Grand County continues to meet the criteria in the scientific matrix to remain in **Stage 2 Fire Restrictions**.