



## COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



*Our Anonymous staff member strikes again with this picture of Wolford Reservoir on a recent crisp, fall morning.*

### GRAND LAKE CLARITY UPDATE

Water Quality Manager **Katherine Morris** gave an update about Grand Lake's clarity.

In 1937, Senate Document 80 laid out the plans for the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, including language protecting the “scenic attraction” of Grand Lake, the Colorado River and the Rocky Mountain National Park.

In 2008, after several years with exceedingly poor water quality and low water transparency, Grand County, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG), the Colorado River District, and the Town of Grand Lake sought a site-specific clarity standard for Grand Lake.

Since then, pursuant to a Grand Lake Clarity Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Adaptive Management to optimize the Lake's clarity, the partners have worked with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Northern Water to manage the system in a way that optimizes Grand Lake clarity, and now also Shadow Mountain Reservoir water quality.

Grand Lake's clarity is actively monitored July 1 through September 11 every year, with two goal qualifiers:

- Average clarity of 3.8 meters (12.46 feet)
- Minimum clarity of 2.5 meters (8.20 feet)

The Clarity MOU expires in January of 2022; partners are working on a draft for a 5-year extension, as they believe the cooperative adaptive management process set forth in the MOU has been effective, resulting in increased cooperation among stakeholders. The MOU extension will be presented to the BOCC for consideration in the next month.

**Click here to view the clarity report.**

#### *In this issue:*

Grand Lake Clarity Update

Public Health Update | Page 2

Colorado River District | Page 2

OLRT Fall Grants | Page 2

Hazard Tree Removal | Page 2

Fairgrounds Fee Schedule  
Changes | Page 3

Manager's Update & Additional  
Business | Page 3

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

*Thank you!*

County Manager Ed Moyer recognized new employees, and those celebrating anniversaries in October, including Assessor **Thomas Weydert**, who has been serving Grand County for 20 years. *(At right, Commissioner Merrit Linke presented Mr. Weydert with a certificate recognizing his 20 years of service.)*

Thank you all for your dedication to keeping us Grand!



## PUBLIC HEALTH | COVID UPDATE

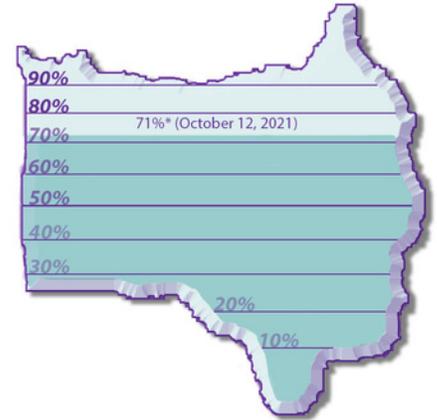
Grand County Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** provided a weekly COVID update. In general, Grand County is seeing improvements over last week, as the number of cases has dropped significantly:

- 33 cases in last 7 days; 92 in last 14 days
  - 190.86 / 100,000 case rate - which dropped from the last week's rate of 375.37 / 100,000
- Grand County is averaging 8 cases per day
  - 24% of cases are pediatric (18 years and under) - which also dropped from the prior week's 29%
- 2,081 residents (13.2% of our population) have COVID since March of 2020
  - Those that have had COVID from March of 2020 to May of 2021 may be vulnerable to reinfection due to the transmissibility of the Delta variant

### VACCINE UPDATE

- Pfizer Booster doses have been approved under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for individuals 65 and older or those 18 to 65 who are immunocompromised
- Approximately 63.7% of eligible residents in Grand County have been fully vaccinated
  - 71.2% have received at least one dose
  - Total estimated Community Immunity (including natural immunity through illness) is estimated at 73.7%

### Grand County's Road to Ideal Herd Immunity Goal: 10,000 (80%) of vaccine eligible residents



\*Residents who have received at least one dose.

## COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT | DEMAND MANAGEMENT

As a follow-up to the Colorado River District's September 7 discussion with the BOCC regarding water supply conditions for the Colorado River Basin, Colorado River District board member **Mike Ritschard** returned to discuss the River District's ongoing efforts surrounding Demand Management and a Demand Management Conceptual Proposal that was recently prepared by River District staff at the request of their Board. The proposal was offered as a foundation to begin a dialogue about market structure and potential rules governing a program, and will be discussed at the upcoming Colorado River District Board Meeting on October 19.

## OLRT | FALL GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Representing the Open Lands, Rivers and Trails (OLRT) Advisory Committee, **Anna Drexler-Dreis** presented five projects the Committee recommended funding in the fall 2021 grant cycle:

- Colorado Open Lands, Running Wilder Ranch Conservation Easement - \$118,200.00
- Colorado Headwaters Land Trust, Elk's Vista Conservation Easement - \$54,500.00
- Headwaters Trails Alliance, Winter Trail Grooming - \$9,500.00
- Headwaters Trails Alliance, Wilderness Trail Maintenance Project - \$8,650.00
- Headwaters Trails Alliance, Fraser to Granby Trail Maintenance Project - \$54,820.00

Commissioners approved funding all projects as presented. Commissioners also supported implementing a collaborative process to facilitate a transfer of knowledge from four Advisory Committee members who have met their term limits to new members.

## ETF RECOVERY | HAZARD TREE REMOVAL

Recovery Manager **Alyssa Ingles** gave an update about hazard tree removal: As part of the East Troublesome Fire recovery efforts, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) coordinated with volunteer-based organization **Team Rubicon** to remove hazard trees along County Road 41 September 10-12.

Dubbed "Operation Let's Roll," more than 60 volunteers cleared 15,000 linear feet of Right-of Way, and removed 7,750 cubic feet of debris. Final chipping of remaining downed trees was completed on October 6, by OEM and Road and Bridge staff.



## MANAGER'S UPDATE

County Manager **Ed Moyer** provided the following updates:

- Staff is still researching if funds will be recommended for the preliminary budget for additional diesel fuel pumps at the Road & Bridge shop to accommodate future use, including Winter Park transit needs.
- County Manager is working with the Winter Park Town Manager on an annual value of the County's donated 50-year lease of 12 acres for the Winter Park Transit Maintenance Facility.
- The Manager's Office has received complaints on Byers Peak Ranch (Mill Avenue Apartments) regarding construction noise and dust. The County does not have an ordinance specific to construction hours, but relies on the State noise statute, which has certain decibel levels from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The developer has been contacted regarding dust concerns and understands the issue. The County Attorney will review the state noise statute with regard to specific noise during construction.
- Mr. Moyer presented a request to waive the \$1.1 million insurance requirement for a mobile onsite shredding contract. The company has \$1 million general liability and \$1M data breach coverage. The waiver was approved.

## PUBLIC HEARING | FACILITY USE FEE CHANGES

A Public Hearing was held regarding increasing usage fees for County facilities, including the Fairgrounds and Flying Heels Arena. Funds from the increases will be used for improvements and maintenance at each of the facilities. The proposed rate schedule was approved, and will go into effect January 1, 2022.

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- Weekly vouchers and wire payments were approved with no discussion.
- Road & Bridge presented several items for consideration:
  - The department previously obtained bids for purchasing two road graders; the purchase agreements were approved.
  - Commissioners authorized staff to move forward with vehicle purchases per the 2022 proposed budget.
  - Superintendent **Chris Baer** asked for approval to move forward hiring a full-time operator for the airports to assist Road & Bridge with winter operations. The request received "thumb's up" from Commissioners.
- Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** gave a monthly report, noting that revenue dropped slightly year-over-year for September. She attributed some of the decline to the number of days the State department of motor vehicle systems were down.
  - Rosene also presented a liquor license renewal for Squeaky B's LLC, which was approved.
- Economic Development Director **DiAnn Butler** presented an agreement to participate in the Colorado New Energy Improvement District's C-PACE program, which provides affordable, long-term financing for energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy projects. The agreement was approved.
- County Assessor **Tom Weydert** presented a proposal from property assessment software firm Spatialest to add a module that would give the public increased access to comps and other property data. The additional module will cost \$12,500, which was included in the department's 2021 budget. Commissioners gave "thumb's up" to move forward.
  - Mr. Weydert also presented the final reports for the 2021 Colorado Property Assessment Study conducted by Wildrose Appraisal Inc.'s Audit Division. [Click here to read the full report.](#)
- Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** provided an update about Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) projects in the East Troublesome Fire burn scar areas:
  - A culvert project in the Corral Creek area was postponed to the spring due to utility coordination with CenturyLink
  - Three projects are currently out to bid; 7 projects are pending landowner coordination; 5 projects have been removed from the task list based on direction from landowners
  - Construction on projects in the Drowsy Water and Smith Creek areas is starting today (Tuesday)
  - Aerial seeding and mulching projects in Area B is complete
- Grand County **Sheriff Brett Schroetlin** asked for approval of an out-of-state travel request to attend the Western States Sheriff's conference. The request was approved.
- Community Development presented two items:
  - Northern Slope Sketch Plan: Approved as presented.
  - Aspen Pines Estates Amended Final Plat, continued from September 21: Discussion on the proposed amendment was again continued. Staff was directed to contact Colorado Parks & Wildlife to determine proper fencing heights for wildlife.
- Water Quality Specialist **Kayli Foulk** presented a letter of support for Learning By Doing's (LBD) grant application for the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program –Stream Management Plan Grant. The letter was approved.