



COMMISSIONERS Corner

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

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



One year later, we remember all that was lost to the East Troublesome Fire, and reflect on the strength and resiliency of our Grand community.

MIDDLE PARK CONSERVATION UPDATE

Representatives from Middle Park Conservation District (MPCD) presented the organization's Annual Report.

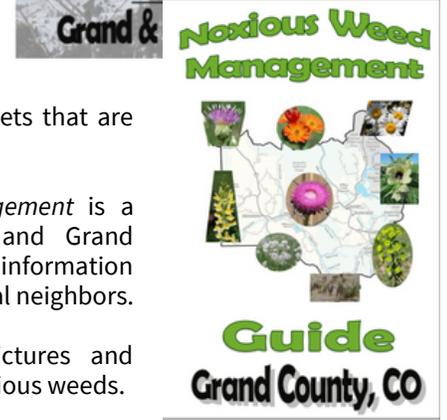
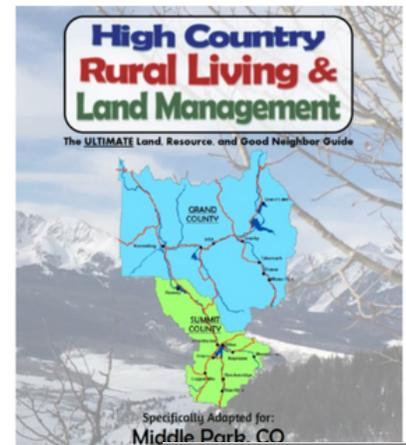
In addition to discussing MPCD's participation in Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) projects and Grand County's Drought Preparedness Committee, Executive Director **Katlyn Miller** reviewed results from a community needs survey.

The survey found that the topics of highest interest to the public are wildfire prevention and mitigation, noxious weeds and forest health.

The organization has published two booklets that are free to the public:

High Country Rural Living & Land Management is a collection of information for Summit and Grand counties and provides high level information particularly related to living with agricultural neighbors.

Noxious Weed Management provides pictures and information about managing the area's noxious weeds.



GC TOURISM BOARD UPDATE

The Grand County Tourism Board also gave an annual update to the BOCC. In addition to updating the Commissioners about marketing and public relations metrics, GCTB representatives discussed strategies for increasing midweek business throughout the County, and creating sustainable tourism to protect the County's natural assets and provide positive visitor experiences.

The organization's 2022 marketing campaigns will begin to address the sustainability issue by encouraging visitors to create as small a carbon footprint as possible, similar to the U.S. Forest Service's "Leave No Trace" campaigns.

PUBLIC HEALTH | COVID UPDATE

Grand County Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** provided a weekly COVID update:

- 41 cases in last 7 days; 74 in last 14 days
- Grand County is averaging 6 cases per day
 - 24% of cases are pediatric (18 years and under) - which also dropped from the prior week's 29%
- 2,109 residents (13.3% of our population) have COVID since March of 2020
- 3 deaths last week, 2 of which were hospitalizations
 - 10 deaths due to COVID; 5 with COVID

VACCINE UPDATE

- Approximately 64% 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%

COVID TESTING CHANGES

- Beginning the week of October 25, GCPH will offer rapid antigen testing only on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon
- Drive-thru testing at the Inn at Silvercreek in Granby will be available **beginning Friday, October 29**. The drive-thru site will offer saliva PCR testing with results within 48 hours.
 - Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays
 - Noon to 6 p.m.
- [Click here to view all testing options.](#)



COVID-19 testing

Beginning the week of October 25, Grand County Public Health will offer rapid antigen testing only on **THURSDAYS from 10 a.m. to noon.**

Drive-thru testing will be available beginning Friday, October 29:

Inn at Silvercreek
62927 U.S. Hwy 40, Granby
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays
Noon to 6 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Grand County Treasurer **Frank DeLay's** quarterly report included the following:

- The Treasurer advertised property taxes for sale on 206 properties, which is about 60 fewer properties than in 2020; those properties have been noticed in the *Middle Park Times*, and also posted outside the Treasurer's Office in Hot Sulphur Springs.
 - The tax lien sale is scheduled for Thursday, November 4.
 - Releases have risen 43% year-over-year, and the County currently has 3 active foreclosures.
- Interest rates have risen slightly over the last month.
- Grand County's unemployment rate in August 2021 was 4.6%, which is down from 6.6% in August 2020.

DeLay also presented Resolution 2021-10-14 authorizing the Treasurer to collect Grand County Sewer Enterprise Funds on two delinquent properties.

YES 4GRAND

East Grand School District Bond Committee member **Ed Raegner** spoke to the BOCC about the initiatives that would be supported by East Grand School District No 2 Ballot Issue 4A, including:

- A Career and Technical Center to support introducing students to trade industries.
- A new building for Granby Elementary, which is well above its capacity.
- Infrastructure upgrades to Middle Park High School such as skylights to bring natural light into classrooms that are on the interior of the building.

To view sample ballots and other 2022 election information, visit www.GrandVotes.org.

EAST TROUBLESOME FIRE TEMPORARY RELIEF EXTENDED



Community Development Director **Robert Davis** presented a resolution to extend the relief period for property owners impacted by the East Troublesome Fire. Resolution No. 2021-1-29 provided a \$500 reduction of building permit fees, and allowed for property owners to reside on their properties in recreational vehicles and campers while rebuilding. The extension was approved.

BOARD BUSINESS

Commissioners reviewed and discussed the weekly correspondence, which included a letter from the U.S. Forest Supervisor regarding illegal fires in the area of upper Vasquez Rd. (Forest Service Rd. 148) and Little Vasquez Rd (Forest Service Rd. 156), and also a letter from the Grand County Housing Authority to the towns of Winter Park and Fraser asking that the Housing Authority be included in discussions regarding the formation of a Regional/Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Authority.

Commissioner Linke gave an update regarding a tour of the Henderson Mine and Mill given to himself, Commissioner Cimino, Manager Moyer and Economic Development Director DiAnn Butler, along with an update from Freeport-McMoRan leadership about Henderson operations.

Commissioners reviewed the upcoming meetings in which they intend to participate. [Click here to view the BOCC Weekly Calendar.](#)

MANAGER'S UPDATE

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

- Five Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for recently approved Open Lands, Rivers and Trails Fund (OLRT) grants to Headwaters Trails Alliance, Colorado Open Lands and Colorado Headwaters Land Trust were approved by the BOCC as presented.
- Manager Moyer noted it is the end of the water year and the Manager's Office is working on water reports due to the State Division of Water Resources on Oct. 29 for Grand County's Administrative Exchange (Road & Bridge maintenance water), the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park RICD, as well as annual reporting on the Fraser Valley Road & Bridge Shop well and the Landfill well decrees.
- The County received an Agriculture Stimulus "County Fair" grant in the amount of \$36,108.00. A Statement of Work was presented and approved in order to receive the funds. Staff will be back before the BOCC to present project recommendations, which may include insulating and heating the dance hall at the Fairgrounds. A big thank you goes out to Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** for submitting the grant.
- County Manager discussed a request for office space by Namaste Home Health & Hospice, and their for-profit parent company. BOCC provided direction for staff to move forward with a lease similar to the previous Home Health and Hospice provider.
- County Manager noted that Retailer Services Fees would be added to the Oct. 26 Agenda, as previously requested. BOCC directed staff to prepare a recommendation that incorporated support for local business.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- Grand County Financial Director **Curtis Lange** presented the 2022 Preliminary Budget, which was **approved**. Following a discussion regarding earmarked surplus and fund balance, Commissioners requested staff include language in the Budget Message regarding large 5-year capital and operating expenditures discussed during the Budget Hearings that are being budgeted for in 2022 surplus and earmarked fund balance. The final budget will be presented at the November 9 BOCC meeting. [Click here to view the Preliminary Budget.](#)
- Grand County Human Services Director **Deb Ruttenberg** presented two CORE contracts for approval:
 - Core Services Program Contract with Parallel Counseling, LLC for Intensive Family Services - **approved**.
 - Core Services Program Contract with Shawn Dinkel with New Directions for Life, Inc. for Intensive Family Services - **approved**.
- Grand County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) **Chief Robert Good** gave an updated related to how COVID is impacting the department. Ambulances are traveling farther transferring patient from Grand County to Front Range medical facilities, resulting in the ambulances and staff being out of district for longer periods of time.
 - EMS' call volume is 8% above 2019 calls for patient transfers; the increased number of transfers, combined with longer transfer distances and staffing issues, is straining the department's resources.
- Grand County Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** presented an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Summit County for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program services. **The IGA was approved.**
- Community Development Director **Robert Davis** presented the Resolution and Special Use Permit (SUP) for Cornerstone Concrete batch plant. Commissioners approved the Resolution and SUP, and authorized signature outside of the meeting, contingent on all final permits (including CDPHE) first being in place. No operation of the plant is permitted until all permits are in place, and the Resolution and SUP are signed.
- **Mr. Davis** also presented a preliminary plat for **Red Hawk Ranch** for review. After much discussion concerning access and safety, County Road 522, previous agreements and density, Commissioners approved the preliminary plat with the conditions presented and additional variances.