



COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



*Our anonymous photographer, whom we're calling "Gransky" (see 'Banksy' for the reference) submitted this pre-dawn picture. Who do **you** think he or she is?*

In this issue:

Fireshed Collaborative & EWP Update

Public Health Update | Page 2

Board Business | Page 2

Manager's Update & Additional Business | Page 3

CommissionersCalendar

October 27

Monthly Legislative Breakfast

Counties & Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT)

Affordable Housing Task Force Updates
CCAT Health Insurance & Affordability
2022 Policy Planning Discussion

Homegrown Talent Initiative at River Run
Event Center

Community Mitigation Assistance Team
(CMAT) Strengths, Weaknesses,
Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT)
Exercise

November 1

CCAT Ad Hoc (Hybrid) Meeting at
Keystone Policy Center and via Zoom

**GC Watershed Recovery Virtual Town
Hall via Zoom, 5:30 to 7 pm**

GRAND COUNTY FIRESHED COLLABORATIVE

fireshed
noun

A landscape affected by wildfire.

Representatives from the Grand County Wildfire Council, along with many of the fire district chiefs, gave a presentation supporting the creation of a Fireshed Collaborative to help the County plan and prepare for future federal funding, and implement landscape scale projects across district and agency boundaries.

Grand Fire Protection District Assistant Chief and Wildfire Council Board Chair **Schelly Olson's** presentation included

Grand County's critical problems with vegetation and wildfire fuels, and also noted that the financial environment around wildfire is poised to change - and other counties are already organized to take advantage of federal funding.

The presentation also underscored the Wildfire Council's mission of making Grand County a fire adapted community that lives with wildfire with minimal economic and social impacts to citizens and visitors.

In response to the Wildfire Council's request for funding, the BOCC directed staff to work with the Council on a proposal for inclusion in the 2022 budget.



*MOVING FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION
MESSAGING TO MITIGATION,
AND WORDS TO WORK*

EMERGENCY WATERSHED (EWP) | UPDATE

Watershed Recovery Coordinator **Brian Murphy** gave an update on EWP projects:

- Close to 400 acres were aerial seeded and mulched.
- Currently two projects under construction: Drowsy Water Ranch and Smith Creek.
 - Smith Creek will be completed this week; Drowsy Water will continue for several more weeks.
 - Four additional projects will begin construction later this week or next week and should be completed in November.
- Corral Creek project postponed until the spring in order to complete projects on private property first.
- Several projects are currently in design for construction in 2022.
- **EWP partners are hosting a virtual town hall Monday at 5:30 for the public.** [Click here to learn more.](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH | COVID UPDATE

Grand County Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** provided a weekly COVID update, including that we are seeing slight improvements in COVID numbers, and a marked improvement over last month:

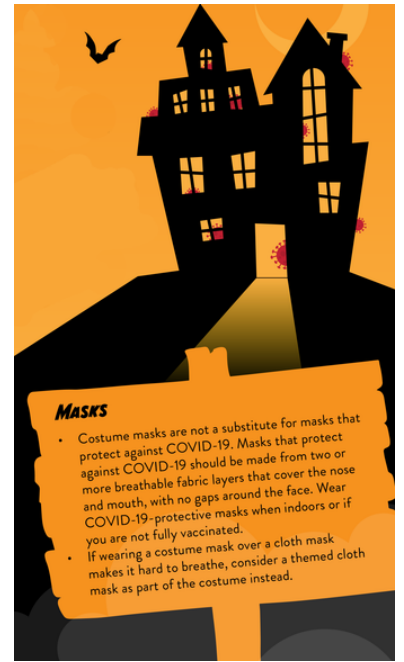
- 31 cases in last 7 days; 69 in last 14 days
- Grand County is averaging 5 cases per day
 - 26% of cases are pediatric (18 years and under)
 - Case rate: 200 / 100,000
- 2,146 residents (13.4% of our population) have documented cases of COVID since March 2020
- 2 current hospitalizations

VACCINE UPDATE

- Approximately 64% of eligible residents in Grand County have been fully vaccinated
 - Total estimated Community Immunity (including natural immunity through illness) is 75.9%
 - [Click here to view vaccine clinic dates.](#)

COVID TESTING

- Drive-thru testing at the Inn at Silvercreek in Granby **begins this 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.



BOARD BUSINESS

- At Commissioners' previous request, Finance Director **Curtis Lange** presented a sales tax service fee analysis. Currently, Grand County allows a 3.33% service fee to be retained by businesses on sales tax remissions (businesses of all sizes are permitted to charge a "fee" to the County for collecting and remitting sales tax). Mr. Lange's analysis included:
 - 37 Colorado counties have the standard 3.33% service fee
 - 5 have eliminated the fee
 - 5 have reduced it from 3.33%
 - 0 have increased it
 - 1 has placed a cap on it

Staff presented three options regarding vendor service fees. In order to address the Commissioners request to accommodate small businesses, staff recommended a proposed service fee cap of \$216 / month. The Commissioners discussed this option, directed staff to obtain additional information regarding notifying businesses of the change, and requested that the topic be placed on the **Wednesday**, November 3 BOCC meeting agenda.

- Commissioners approved a letter to the new owners of Granby Ranch regarding a lease with a local internet provider, and the importance of maintaining internet connectivity to existing Grand County customers.
- Commissioners noted correspondence from Mountain Family Center regarding the organization's accomplishments, and upcoming holiday programs, including the Thanksgiving Basket and Holiday Gift projects and Support for Seniors. To help with any of the programs, email katie@mountainfamilycenter.org.
- With regard to the 2020 census, Commissioners briefly discussed a possible need for Commissioner re-districting within the County. Legal was requested to follow-up with additional information.



ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Secure ballot drop boxes are located:

- Hot Sulphur Springs: Grand County Admin Building
- Kremmling: CSU Extension Hall
- Grand Lake: Grand Lake Town Hall
- Granby: Granby Town Hall
- Fraser: Grand Park Community Rec Center

OR

Vote in person

at the Voter Service & Polling Center
308 Byers Ave, Top Floor, Hot Sulphur Springs

Monday-Friday, Oct 25 - Nov 1 | 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, Oct 30 | 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov 2 | 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Due to Election Day on Tuesday, the BOCC Meeting will take place **Wednesday**, November 3.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

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

- County Manager updated Commissioners on the Windy Gap Connectivity Channel Project. The water plan draft environmental assessment and final public scoping is tentatively scheduled for late December / early January, with the FONSI to follow. Construction is scheduled for mid-May, the \$25 million project is still short funding \$3 million. Since Grand County adopted Flood Plain Regulations earlier in the year, the project is now subject to, and has applied for said permit. However, since this is an NRCS-RCPP funded project, significant flood plain analysis and engineering review by State and Federal agencies has already occurred.
- The Manager and Community Development are meeting with Colorado Parks & Wildlife (Tuesday) regarding fencing at Aspen Pines Estates, per BOCC direction in a previous meeting.
- An amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Open Lands, Rivers and Trails (OLRT) was presented, correcting a clerical error on a Town of Fraser project cost. The updated MOU was approved.
- County staff is coordinating with CDOT and requesting the agency to update the public about their recent striping changes on U.S. Hwy 40 at Red Dirt Hill. Of the \$400,000 contributed to the larger safety project by the Board of County Commissioners, \$200,000 has been applied in 2021 to survey and topo work.
- The Sheriff's Office is working with contractors on options and cost estimates to repair/replace the problematic sewer line at the Grand County Jail; cost estimates will be presented to the BOCC at a future meeting once obtained.
- Staff is finalizing a lease with Namaste Home Health + Hospice, which will be presented to the BOCC for approval at a future meeting.
- Staff is working on the Budget Message, and incorporating an ear-marked budget surplus and fund balance section, as requested by the BOCC.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- Voucher and wire payments were approved with no discussion.
- On behalf of Road & Bridge, Assistant County Manager, **Micah Benson**, presented a construction contract with Cold Creek Excavation LLC to assist with replacing compromised sewer lines at the Road & Bridge shop in Kremmling.
- Juvenile Services Director **Kelly Friesen** presented two services contracts (one with Routt County and one with Moffat County, each to provide community based alternatives to security detention services for delinquent youth in accordance with the 14th Judicial District Colorado Youth Detention Continuum (CYDC) agreement) for approval. Both contracts were approved with no discussion.
- As follow-up to a discussion item on October 19 regarding a local internet service provider potentially losing an access point on Granby Ranch property, Information Systems Director and Chief Information Security Office **Thomas Johnson** presented a proposal for a Working Group on the topic of internet access and availability in Grand County. The proposal received three "thumb's up" from Commissioners.
- Grand County Housing Authority Operations Manager / Director **Sheena Darland** presented a Down Payment Assistance Program application for approval. Down payment assistance funds are provided via a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The application was approved.
- Community Development Director **Robert Davis** and County Manager **Ed Moyer** addressed complaints submitted by residents regarding Peak's asphalt operations and visible emissions. Mr. Davis has spoken with a representative from the plant, and has also contacted the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), which is responsible for air quality permitting and compliance. The plant is moving to a reduced schedule and has plans to shut down November 12 for the season.
- Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** presented a services contract with Meridiam Partners LLC for Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) project "Troublesome Creek Bridge/Ennis Headgate." The contract was approved.