



COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



The BOCC would like to THANK all of our staff, elected officials, and Grand County community members who have served in the U.S. military!

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Commissioners CALENDAR

November 10

Demand Management Meeting

November 11

Veterans Day Breakfast

Counties & Commissioners Acting Together
(CCAT) Fiscal Reform Collective

November 12

GC Economic Summit

November 13

CSU Extension Advisory Committee Meeting

November 15

CCAT Affordable Housing 2022 Policy Planning

Transit Advisory Committee Meeting

*Click here to view the Commissioners' full
calendars.*

INSTREAM WATER FLOW REPORT

Representatives from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) presented 2022 Instream Flow Recommendations. The CWCB provides policy direction on water issues, including stream and lake protection, water supply planning, and watershed and flood protection.

The CWCB receives recommendations for water rights to be appropriated in stream reaches or natural lakes where a natural environment exists and can be preserved to a reasonable degree by the water available for appropriation of a water right. This effort is accomplished through partnerships with State and Federal agencies, local communities, cities, local environmental groups, water users, and other interested parties.

The Bureau of Land Management has submitted a request for increasing Instream Flow on Kinney, Rock and Spruce Creeks. CWCB provided an overview of the ISF Program along with the BLM's request. The BOCC was in support, and requested staff to draft a Letter of Support for the BLM.



Proposed Flow Rates

Kinney Creek (increase): 1986 ISF flow right for 1 cfs was established; proposal is an increase of 0.7 cfs for a total of 1.7 cfs from May to mid-July

Spruce Creek (increase): 1985 ISF for 0.5 cfs year round; proposal is an increase of 0.4 cfs for a total of 0.9 cfs from mid-April to the end of July

Rock Creek (new): 1.35 cfs May 1 to August 31; 0.7 cfs September 1 to November 30, 0.5 cfs December 1 to April 30

STAFF RECOGNITION

Information Systems Director and Chief Information Security Officer **Thomas Johnson** (left) was nominated by his staff to receive a challenge coin.

The IS team's nomination submission stated "...Thomas Johnson has provided indispensable leadership to the Information Systems team," and "working with leaders such as Thomas helps make it possible to deliver high quality service in even the toughest situations."



PUBLIC HEALTH | COVID UPDATE



Grand County Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** provided a weekly COVID update noting that while Grand County cases have plateaued, we are still considered a "high transmission" area. Pediatric cases have also declined substantially. [Click here to review current statistics on Grand County's dashboard.](#)

As we move into the winter months, spend more time indoors, and the County's visitor population increases, Ms. Baker encouraged caution and employing preventative measures: Get vaccinated, wear a mask at indoor venues, maintain distance, and wash your hands frequently.

BOARD BUSINESS

- Commissioners approved the renewals and appointment of three members to the Grand County Tourism Board:
 - Robert Blay (Fraser District) - renewed for three years
 - Mike Ritter (Three Lakes District) - renewed for three years
 - Jace Worth (Three Lakes District) - replacing term limits of Chris Oliver
 - The Mainstream District will have a Board position opening in January of 2022 as long-term Board member Randy George is not seeking renewal.
- Commissioners had a discussion with Undersheriff Wayne Schafer regarding pre-trial services options for those awaiting hearings in the 14th Judicial District that could alleviate jail capacities, particularly for juveniles awaiting hearings.

ROAD & BRIDGE | LANDFILL UPDATE



Grand County Road & Bridge Superintendent Chris Baer provided an update about the Grandby Landfill. Due to a failing liner, staff began backfilling a section of the landfill in August. In total, crews hauled 7,640 yards of material (764 truck loads) to the site. 3,110 yards were debris material from Highway 125.

Work on the landfill will resume next July: Following an inspection, a new liner will be installed, which will then be buried with a clay-like material and top soil.

Mr. Baer also updated Commissioners about the 2021/22 plowing operations plan. Road & Bridge is experiencing a driver shortage - which will affect plowing operations as we move into the winter months. They are asking for the community's patience, and also that residents and visitors alike be prepared for driving in the snow:

Consider stocking your vehicle with:

- Tire chains or snow socks
- A solar powered phone charger
- Blankets, extra hats and gloves
- Road flares
- A shovel, flashlight and first aid kit
- Water

WINTER 2021 / 22
SNOWPLOW OPERATIONS

Road & Bridge will continue working hard to maintain safe roads throughout Grand County. Due to staffing shortages, snowplow operators will focus first on primary roads that serve as main traffic arteries, and then secondary (subdivision) roads.

Please be patient with us as we work to overcome these challenges, and be adequately prepared to travel in the snow.

Grand County
Colorado

QUESTIONS?
CALL 970-887-2123

MANAGER'S UPDATE

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

- Human Resources received the draft written pay plan from Evergreen Solutions. HR and the County Manager are reviewing this week with a goal for Evergreen to present the written plan to the BOCC next week.
- A contract with Christian Hornbaker to provide consulting services as Grand County's Short Term Rental Coordinator is in place; Mr. Hornbaker has begun meeting with staff to understand the Community Development processes of administering the STR program, as well as Work Group coordination and goal setting.
- The County has received an update from HUB regarding Q3 medical and dental expense (incurred to the self-funded plans); both plans are tracking well within budget.
- The Town of Granby has requested the County Manager attend a November 17 meeting regarding its comprehensive master (land use) plan.
- County Manager noted the Commissioners' schedule on Wednesday included a meeting at 1 p.m. at the CSU Extension Hall with the County's Colorado River District Representative, the Middle Park Stock Growers and Farm Bureau regarding the status of the Colorado River Basin and Lake Powell, as well as demand management.
- The Commissioners, Manager's Office and Community Development have received numerous complaints regarding the Peak Asphalt plant on County Road 5. Every complaint has been forwarded to the State along with any photos submitted. The State advised they had planned an unannounced visit last week, but was unable to get it scheduled. The Manager has communicated with CDPHE that the County needs to know if the plant is in compliance with State permits in order to respond to citizen complaints on this matter. Commissioners directed staff to request representatives from Peak attend an upcoming BOCC meeting to discuss the emission complaints in a public meeting.
- Regarding the Town of Fraser's Public Arts Committee request: The County Attorney is having ongoing conversations with DOLA to determine whether the requested sculpture is an appropriate use of Conservation Trust funds.
- Staff is finalizing a lease agreement with Namaste Home Health - Hospice which will be presented for approval at a future BOCC meeting.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- Voucher and wire payments were approved with no discussion.
- Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** presented the department's quarterly report; October revenue was down year-over-year, but year-to-date, the department's revenue is up 11%, and also increased over 2019.
- Natural Resources Foreman, **Amy Sidener**, gave an update regarding Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) projects:
 - The program has been extended through March at the Federal level.
 - There are 8 projects pending landowner meetings, and 3 projects pending ditch owner agreements.
 - The CPW and Smith Creek projects should be completed this week.
- Information Security Director and Chief Information Security Officer **Thomas Johnson** provided background to the BOCC regarding agreements between Moffat, Grand and Routt counties which would allow the District Attorney's office VPN access to each county's assets (the 14th Judicial District represented by the District Attorney is comprised of Moffat, Grand and Routt counties).
- Housing Authority Operations Manager **Sheena Darland** presented an application for exemption of an Affordable Housing Transfer Fee for Ranches at Devils Thumb. The application was approved as presented.
- Treasurer **Frank DeLay** gave a monthly update that included:
 - 175 properties with delinquent property taxes were sold.
 - Inflation is on the rise: in the last 12 months, gas prices rose 49%, eggs 36% and bacon 28%.
 - Grand County's September unemployment rates was 3.8%, or 328 unemployed individuals.
 - Mr. DeLay presented a Resolution canceling certain uncollectible taxes, which was approved.
- At a Public Hearing, a Construction and Heavy Equipment Storage Special Use Permit Renewal for OOE Holdings, LLC AKA Golden Eagle Holdings was approved with conditions.

2022 BUDGET

The Final Budget Resolution will be presented to the BOCC on December 14. The BOCC approved a Preliminary Resolution which increased the Colorado Sewer Enterprise (Tabernash Sewer) quarterly service fees from \$203.13 to \$223.51 to pay for Operating & Maintenance (O&M) costs. (Colorado Sewer Fees have not been increased since 2015.)

The BOCC discussed the 2022 budgeted surplus and 5-year fund balance, noting the increased asphalt paving in the 2022 budget and the amount of earmarked surplus and fund balance needed for large expenditures (buildings, roads, and equipment) in the next 5 years.