



## COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



Photo courtesy of Tyson Dearduff,  
Community Development Plans Examiner / Combination Inspector

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## Commissioners CALENDAR

### November 17

Sen. Hickenlooper Virtual Town Hall

### November 18

Counties & Commissioners Acting Together  
(CCAT) Fall Retreat

National Association of Counties (NACo) West  
Region Conference Call

### November 19

Health Insurance Affordability Meeting (Zoom)

Natural Resources Roundtable / Java Lava Cafe

Ambulance Licensing Conversation with CDPHE  
(Google Meets)

[Click here to view the full BOCC calendars.](#)



## Sheriff's Office | Staff Recognition

Grand County **Sheriff Brett Schroetlin** presented **Corporal (ret.) Susan James** with a Coin of Excellence in recognition of her 18 years of service to the community and the Sheriff's Office.

"She was 100% dedicated to her job, and how the jail did their job. She fought to maintain equity in employees, in developing and standardizing operating practices, and always followed the chain of command," Sheriff Schroetlin said of Sue's tenure.

Ms. James (*top, with Commissioner Linke and Sheriff Schroetlin*) retired from the Sheriff's Office earlier this month.

Sheriff Schroetlin and the BOCC also recognized milestone anniversaries for two Sheriff's Office staff members: For 20 years of service: Animal Control Corporal **Mary Ann Kersteins** (*bottom left*), and for 15 years of service: Patrol Sergeant **Derek Bell** (*bottom right*).



## NATURAL RESOURCES FALL REPORT



Natural Resources Foreman **Amy Sidener** gave the 2021 Fall Report that included statistics about the 2020/21 burn season: The department issued 454 burn permits, and a total of 4,030 piles were burned. Fifty-three permits have already been issued for the 2021/22 season; the department anticipates the number of permits and piles to be similar to last year.

Ms. Sidener also gave an update about noxious weed treatments, and the department's involvement in Wildfire Recovery; Natural Resources committed about 300 hours to Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) work to date in 2021.



Since March of 2020, about 14% of Grand County's total population has had a documented case of COVID-19.



In the last 7 days, about 24% of diagnosed cases have been pediatric (under 18).

Pediatric cases and subsequent quarantines increased this week, primarily due to serial testing of students (with parental consent).

The goals of serial testing are a) to catch COVID cases early, and b) to quarantine only the sick individual, not everyone who was potentially exposed - hopefully reducing the number of school and class quarantines. Students participating in serial testing don't need to quarantine as long as they continue to test weekly and have no symptoms.

[Click here to review Grand County's COVID-19 dashboard.](#)

## CSU EXTENSION UPDATE

CSU Extension Director **Olivia Clark** gave a quarterly update that included:

- Four summer student interns participated in three projects - including installing and studying the use of virtual fencing.
- The Middle Park Fair & Rodeo and Junior Livestock Sale was successful.
- Fraser Valley Metro Recreation District has taken over management responsibilities of the Grand Community Gardens' Fraser site.
- The Grand County Extension office hosted two stops of the Ram Tour, featuring two CSU faculty and staff members. One took place at the fairgrounds regarding consumptive water use, and the second took place at C Lazy U Ranch regarding post-wildfire restoration. Located on U.S. Hwy 125, C Lazy U was heavily impacted by the East Troublesome Fire. The Colorado Water Center, part of the CSU System, is leading the research project on soil stabilization following wildfires in the Willow Creek drainage.
- The Extension office collaborated with other area organizations on an "After Disaster Guidebook." This resource template was created through a CSU Extension internship.
- 4-H clinics and workshops finished strong. The sponsor of this year's Catch-A-Calf program is Yust Cattle Company. For more information about Catch-A-Calf, contact the extension office at 970-724-3436.



While findings are still being compiled about the effectiveness of virtual fences for livestock, Ms. Clark shared an anecdotal story from Fitch Ranch: Fitch has installed two signal towers and placed collars on its cattle. When the Black Mountain Fire started, Fitch's cattle were grazing on U.S. Forest Service property in the fire's vicinity. Ranch owners were able to open virtual gates using an app on their cell phones, and sent signals to the cattle to move home - which they did.

### Beef Carcass Evaluation Tour

4-H participants had the opportunity to visit the University of Wyoming to learn about beef carcass evaluation. The tour began with the kids seeing the evaluations of their own cattle, and learning how the process impacts the meat sold in grocery stores.



## Holiday Group Photo Contest

To celebrate the holiday season, staff proposed replacing the annual decorating contest with themed department photos. Commissioners were in favor of the group photo idea, and opted to give teams creative control to select their own themes; photos will be judged by the BOCC. The Manager's Office will be sending additional information to staff.

## BOARD BUSINESS

- Commissioners approved a Conservation Trust Fund request by the Town of Fraser's Public Arts Committee for the purchase of a bronze statue. The majority of the contribution will be from District 1, with small contributions from Districts 2 and 3.
- Representing the Colorado River District, **Mike Ritschard** presented updates to the Board related to the Upper Colorado River Basin, and projects planned or being executed in 15 other Western counties. The Infrastructure Bill recently passed by the U.S. House provides several billion dollars for Western water infrastructure projects. Discussion ranged from de-salinization of water to supply the West Coast and water pipelines from the Midwest to serve Colorado's Front Range. Also discussed was a proposed bill prohibiting Investment Water Speculation related to private property rights and demand management.
- Representatives from Evergreen Solutions, LLC presented a draft of the final 2021 Pay and Classification Plan. The BOCC supported the changes presented; a Resolution to adopt the Pay Plan recommendations along with updated job descriptions will be brought back to the BOCC at a future meeting.

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## MANAGER'S UPDATE

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

- The Town of Granby Manager has contacted the Manager's Office inquiring if the County would like to partner / invest in a U.S. 40 workforce housing project. Commissioners were supportive, pending additional details about the project.



- The section of Thompson Road between City Market and the stoplight at U.S. Hwy 40 needs improvements. Road & Bridge has performed traffic counts to establish the very low percent of Grand County traffic utilizing Thompson Road to access unincorporated Grand County to the west of Grand Elk via County Road 56. Based on initial estimates and a request from the Town of Granby, the County's contribution to the project would be approximately 3.7%, or \$41,000. County Manager and R&B Superintendent will continue to discuss this with the Town and better understand the maintenance obligation of Thompson Road under the Grand Elk General Improvements District.
- County Manager updated the BOCC of 2022 budget truck purchases that were authorized to be purchased or ordered in 2021: Road & Bridge located three pickup trucks to replace two R&B vehicles and one maintenance vehicle. The 3/4 ton Ford crew cab trucks came in at State Bid at \$33,500 / each.
- As a follow-up to a previous Workshop with the Grand Foundation regarding housing for residents displaced by the East Troublesome Fire and workforce housing options, County Manager noted Megan Ledin - Grand Foundation will be on next week's Agenda with a proposal.
- EMS is traveling to North Carolina to pick up the 3 remaining new ambulance remounts. Road & Bridge coordinated having one of the EMS ambulance chassis transported back to Grand County, where it will be re-purposed for a service truck.
- The Manager's Office will be attending the Tabernash Meadows Water & Sanitation District Board Meeting December 14 to discuss the 2016 Amended Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), and clarify projects that were provided and paid for by the County in exchange for requesting the District clear its books of a tap fee that is said to be owed by the County.
- Pole Creek Valley's Homeowner's Association has requested an update regarding County Road 522. The BOCC gave direction that an Agenda Item will be scheduled in 2022 pending final results of the cultural survey.
- CDPHE has requested that Grand County Public Health take on retail food inspections in Jackson County. GCPH currently has one staff member performing all retail food inspections; accommodating the State's request would require additional staff. Staff will be coming back to the BOCC with information and recommendations to meet the community's needs along with the State's request.
- Regarding the recent Denver Water settlement with Boulder County, Grand County Learning by Doing will be discussing the trigger points on Grand County CRCA fund distribution.

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- Voucher and wire payments were approved with no discussion.
- Airport Supervisor **Josh Schroeder** presented two items:
  - An updated draft of the Airport Advisory Committee By-Laws increasing the number of Committee members from 5 to 7 voting members was approved.
  - An Assignment of Hangar Ground Lease for Hangar No. 3 at Kremmling-McElroy Airfield was approved.
- Economic Development Director **DiAnn Butler** gave an update regarding WRC's progress to develop and fund Digital Innovation Hubs in Grand County:
  - WRC has applied for \$1.3 million in EDA funding from the American Rescue Plan Act
  - Freeport McMoRan has awarded WRC \$75,000 in grant funding
  - WRC has applied for a regional EDA grant through Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG)
  - The Connected Communities website is under development and will be completed in the near term
- Grand County **EMS Chief Robert Good**'s request to accelerate the purchase of two snowmobiles to replace two aging snow machines received three thumbs up.
- Recovery Manager **Alyssa Ingles** gave an update regarding hazard tree removal efforts related to the East Troublesome Fire:
  - Crews from **Grand Fire** and **Grand Lake Fire districts** have been working in the Trail Creek neighborhood and along County roads in Grand Lake to cut, chip and broadcast hazardous trees. Team Rubicon was recently awarded \$200,000 from the Red Cross to perform work in Grand County related to ETF recovery efforts and future mitigation. The volunteer organization plans to perform a larger project in 2022.
- Community Development:
  - 448 Condominiums, Resolution No. 2021-11-13 As-Built Plat: Approved as presented.
  - Lot 18A, Block 4, Val Moritz Village, Amended Final Plat: Approved with conditions.
  - Peters Subdivision Exemption: Approved as presented.
- An addendum to a previously approved services contract with Spatalest, Inc. presented by Grand County Assessor **Tom Weydert** was approved. Mr. Weydert also gave the BOCC a demonstration of the software, which will make it easier for residents to find, view and analyze property information.
- A Resolution updating and simplifying the Rules for Meetings of the Board presented by County Attorney **Christopher Leahy** was approved as presented with one change.

*Make a list...*  
of the dates GCPH will **not** be offering COVID testing  
through the holiday season:



Thanksgiving Day (November 25)
Christmas Eve Day (December 24)
Christmas Day (December 25)
New Years Eve Day (December 31)
New Years Day (January 1, 2022)



**Grand County**  
Colorado