



# Grand County

Colorado

DECEMBER 7, 2021

## COMMISSIONERS Corner

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



*Tis the season!  
Grand County towns lit up the trees last weekend,  
don't miss this picture-perfect display in Granby.  
Photo courtesy Destination Granby.*

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### Commissioners CALENDAR

- 12/8 GC Board Planning Commission
- 12/13 GC BOCC meeting
- 12/13 BLM Seasonal Closure Meeting
- 12/15 GC Board of Adjustment meeting
- 12/17 Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise Board meeting (Zoom)
- 12/20 Transit Authority Committee meeting (Winter Park)

**Next week's BOCC meeting takes place on MONDAY, December 13 due to Commissioner Linke's participation in CPW's wolf work group on Tuesday.**

*Click here to view the full BOCC calendars.*

## ROCKY MTN NATIONAL PARK | 2022 SEASON

Representatives from the Rocky Mountain National Park presented the proposed strategy for RMNP's timed entry program and 2022 fees.

The reservation-based timed entry program piloted in 2021 allowed RMNP staff to track visitor traffic patterns and the impact of human traffic on trails, and to better manage resources. Based on the 2021 experience, the reservation system will remain in place for 2022 park season with some minor changes.

Reservations for the month will come available on the first of every month (e.g. June reservations will be available to make beginning June 1).

Rocky Mountain National Park is the nation's

# 3<sup>rd</sup>

most visited national park.

### RMNP'S FIRE RECOVERY EFFORTS

Twenty-five miles of trails have re-opened following the East Troublesome Fire; another 29 miles remain closed. Staff continues to monitor aquatic wildlife and habitats in the affected burn areas, and are moving forward replacing structures. Park officials are hopefully all campgrounds will be open for the 2022 season.

**RMNP officials are taking public comment on proposed 2022 fees through January 7. [Click here to view the fee plan details and submit comments.](#)**

### Rocky Mountain National Park



## Proposed Entrance and Campground Fee Increase

The park is proposing a \$5 increase to the Daily Vehicle Entrance fee (other fees remain the same)

Summer fees would increase from \$30 to \$35 at four park campgrounds

Winter campground fee would increase from \$20 to \$35 per night at Moraine Park Campground

Group campsites fees in Glacier Basin Campground would increase by \$10 per night – will vary based on size of group

[https://parkplanning.nps.gov/RMNP\\_FEES\\_2022](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/RMNP_FEES_2022)  
comments taken through January 7, 2022



# GRAND FOUNDATION | FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

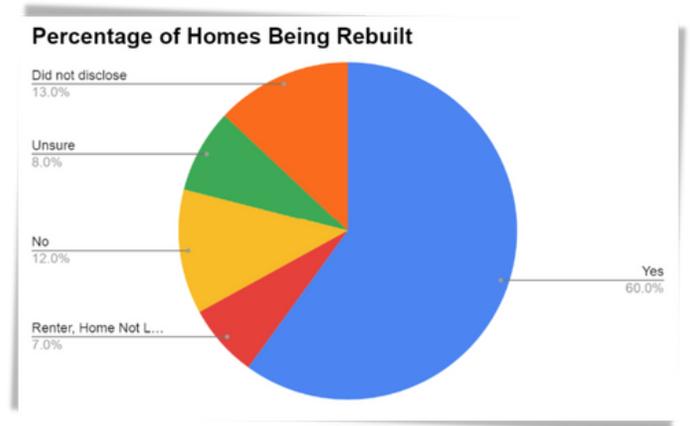
Grand Foundation Executive Director, **Megan Ledin**, and Case Manager, **Rachel Kindsvatter**, provided an update on the Fire Recovery Case Management.

Following the East Troublesome Fire, the Grand Foundation took the case management role. Last August, Grand Foundation was able to hire a Case Manager via a grant from Center of Disaster Philanthropy. The Foundation's work has included helping individual property owners with hazardous tree and debris removal, along with contacting primary and secondary homeowners who needed additional resources and funding.

Performed in conjunction with the Office of Emergency Management, the work has provided the County with details about what debris work remains to be done, and the number of homeowners currently or planning to re-build.

The data is being used to determine what steps need to be taken, and what services may still be needed next year (for example, whether the County should invite Southern Baptist Disaster Recovery back next summer, or self-fund the remaining debris removal).

It was stated that many of the homeowners the Foundation has spoken with were under-insured related to the actual costs of rebuilding - which is affecting their decision whether or not to rebuild in Grand County. The Foundation continues to work on making the public aware that the Wildfire Fund exists, and still has funds available to help affected property owners.



## FIRE FAMILIES PROPERTY PURCHASE

The Grand Foundation has been working with the Grand County Housing Authority to pursue purchasing housing units and making them available to families affected by the wildfire who haven't been able to find appropriate housing. A property has been identified in Grand Lake that could house fire families along with local work force. The Town of Grand Lake identified a zoning issue related to the sale that would require the seller to sell additional property. The purchase price is over \$1 million, but an offer has not yet been made by the Grand Foundation.

The organizations are looking into leveraging loan funds available via the American Rescue Plan Act and the State of Colorado. Ms. Ledin outlined several options for how the financing could work to make the purchase, stating that the Grand Foundation would like the County to be a partner in the project, and also match the funding that would be provided by grants to the Wildfire Fund. Approximately \$250,000 from the County would be needed to secure the purchase. There would still be a balance of \$400,000 that could be collected over four years (the term of the loan) via rents.

## BOARD BUSINESS

- Commissioner Cimino provided an update regarding pre-trial services options for the 14th Judicial District. The District Attorney has asked the the District's counties (Grand, Moffat and Routt) to share the costs of a study on the matter; the DA's office is willing to provide \$5,000. Costs for the study will be finalized in January, but are anticipated to be less than \$5,000 per county. Commissioners supported a "one-third" approach with the other two counties in the 14th Judicial District.
- Commissioner Manguso has been approached by a private citizen group asking the County to pave County Road 1 (Trough Road). Road & Bridge is researching what the costs of initial pavement would be, along with projected maintenance expenses.

Next week's BOCC meeting will take place  
**MONDAY, December 13.**



## MANAGER'S UPDATE

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

- The proposed re-appointment of **Mike Ritschard** as Grand County's representative to the Colorado River District Board will be on the January 4 BOCC Agenda.
- From the November 29 **Colorado Basin Roundtable Meeting**:
  - A new grant protocol is being implemented due to the decrease in State severance tax. The State has re-allocated how it is going to provide Basin Funds (\$300,000/year for the next three years) to each Roundtable; there will no longer be a Statewide Fund to provide grant matches. Going forward, applicants are being asked to apply for a Water Fund grant.
  - A final draft of the Basin Implementation Plan is out for final comments and due to the CWCB by January 31, 2022.
- Sheriff's Office / 2021 vehicles: Three out of four trucks in the 2021 vehicles have been received; the delivery of one has been delayed into 2022.
- **County Road 522**:
  - Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) sent the US Army Corps of Engineers a letter stating their concerns regarding jurisdictional area.
  - Staff is awaiting comments from the Corps on what they will or will not agree to in response to requests set forth in the letter, which should be received within 30 days.
- A Road & Bridge employee will be traveling to North Carolina to retrieve one of the EMS ambulance chassis; an agreement with a transportation company fell through and sending an employee to retrieve the vehicle is the best alternative. The ambulance chassis will be repurposed and used as a Road & Bridge service truck.
- **Windy Gap Firing Project / Annual Carriage Contract Meeting and Forecast**:
  - The Bureau of Reclamation and Municipal Subdistrict have provided a most probable forecast for Windy Gap pumping (40K AF) and modeled water usage from Colorado Big Thompson Project reservoirs and diversions for 2022. Not including Windy Gap pumping, Granby Reservoir is forecasted to peak at 435K AF of storage (80% full).
  - Adams Tunnel diversions are forecasted at 199.6K AF (65% less) due to Front Range C-BT maintenance projects. *Click here to view the contract and plan details.*
  - The forecast also includes approximately 1,300 AF of water that goes to Grand County pursuant to the WGFP IGA (50% of the unused Middle Park Water – Windy Gap water pumped in 2021) and is available for release to supplement 5,412.5 AF pool environmental flow releases in August 2022 if Granby Reservoir does not spill. The 50% unused amount to Grand County becomes 100% once Chimney Hollow Reservoir is operational pursuant to WGFP IGA.
- The 1980s-era forklift at Road & Bridge's Granby shop is close to being deemed irreparable. R&B has located a forklift to replace the unit. Commissioners approved a supplemental expenditure up to \$15,000 to replace the forklift if it cannot be repaired.
- December 28 BOCC meeting will be scheduled as a call-in only morning meeting to approve vouchers, unless there is pressing business.

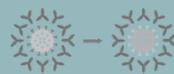
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## PUBLIC HEALTH | COVID UPDATE

Grand County Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** provided an update on COVID-19 in Grand County. *Click here for Grand County's COVID-19 dashboard.*

Regarding the Omicron variant, Director Baker stated that, at this time, it is not of greater concern than previous variations of the COVID-19 virus.

Director Baker issued a Public Health Advisory Notice on December 4. *Click here to read the full letter.*



### ABOUT: Monoclonal Antibodies

*Monoclonal antibody drugs are treatments that enlist your body's germ-fighting immune system against diseases. Monoclonal antibodies for COVID-19 may block the virus that causes COVID-19 from attaching to human cells, making it more difficult for the virus to reproduce and cause harm. Monoclonal antibodies may also neutralize a virus.*

*Middle Park Health is now providing monoclonal antibody infusion treatments. CDPHE has also deployed a buses throughout the state to assist with providing these treatments.*

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

### Accounting

Voucher and wire payments were approved with no discussion.

### Fairgrounds

Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** presented updated Facility Use Application & Policies for Fairgrounds users, which was approved for immediate use.

### EWP

- Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** presented an updated MOU with Northern Water to reflect the full amount CWCB is funding for EWP efforts; the amendment was approved as presented.
- A letter of support on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) regarding Instream Flow Rights on Kinney, Spruce and Rock creeks was approved as presented.

### Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Emergency Manager **Joel Cochran** presented several items for review and approval:

- A letter of support and application for a Hazard Mitigation Grant program was approved as presented.
- A letter in support of three hazard mitigation projects, along with funding of a 12.5% local match was approved.

### Housing Authority

As a follow-up to a November 23 agenda item, Grand County Housing Authority Operations Manager **Sheena Darland** re-presented a Letter of Engagement from law firm Holland & Hart LLP to represent the Towns of Winter Park, Fraser and Grand County in the undertaking of establishing a Regional Housing Authority. Sitting as the Housing Authority Board, Commissioners approved the letter as presented.

- Ms. Darland also presented a letter of support for the Town of Fraser to submit a planning grant application to DOLA's Colorado Division of Housing on behalf of the Region/Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Authority working group; Commissioners approved the letter to be signed outside of a meeting.

### Sheriff's Office

Undersheriff **Wayne Schafer** presented an application for the Gray and Black Market Marijuana Grant, which was approved as presented.

### Community Development

Community Development Director **Robert Davis** presented the following items:

- Resolution 2021-9-38 amending Short Term Rental regulations to require an active Grand County permit number be included in STR listings on all platforms was presented and approved.
- Peak Materials Asphalt Plant Update
  - As follow-up to previous discussion and correspondence, Peak Materials representatives were invited to address the BOCC regarding public complaints. The plant's operations manager discussed recent opacity and emissions readings performed, and stated the plant will host a community open house next year to help explain the processing.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- Administrative Amendment, 70 West Trucking LLC / Approved with one-year term.
- Benson Gravel Pit SUP Renewal & Administrative Amendment / Approved as recommended.

### Short Term Rental Workgroup

Short Term Rental Coordinator **Christian Hornbaker** provided an update:

- As of this week, Host Compliance indicates 259 non-compliant STR properties in unincorporated Grand County.
  - Warning letters were issued via Host Compliance to non-compliant properties November 4; since that time, approximately 90 STR property owners have renewed their permits.
  - The BOCC provided direction for Mr. Hornbaker to begin issuing fines to property owners who remain out of compliance following issuance of the warning letter.

### Human Resources

Human Resources Director **Colleen Reynolds** presented the final Pay Plan for adoption. The Pay Plan is the result of a year-long salary comparison study performed by Evergreen Solutions LLC, and was approved.



## WANTED

Your Grand County pictures!  
From East to West, slopes to rivers,  
Commissioners Corner needs pictures of  
our home towns and back yards.

Submit to:  
[ctravis@co.grand.co.us](mailto:ctravis@co.grand.co.us)