



# Grand County

Colorado

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

## COMMISSIONERS Corner

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

Richard Cimino | District 1

Merrit Linke | District 2

Randy George | District 3



Photo of moose drinking in bird bath courtesy East Grand Fire Protection District Chief Todd Holzwarth. The photo first appeared in the Sky-Hi News.

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## WOLFORD MTN RESERVOIR UPDATE

**Mike Ritschard, Andy Mueller and Hunter Causey** from the Colorado River District gave Commissioners an update regarding operations at Wolford Mountain Reservoir.



Since its construction, Ritschard Dam has settled more than anticipated. Due to these movements, the River District monitors the dam, and makes observations daily. In 2020, a panel of earthen dam experts made several recommendations that the River District is taking action on.

Wolford is one of the River District's largest assets. Ritschard Dam, an earthen dam with a clay core, was constructed as a joint venture between Denver Water and the Colorado River District between 1993 and 1995.

The rate of deflation to both vertical settling and downstream movement has slowed. The dam's movement is not currently impacting the decision to fill Wolford Reservoir to capacity.

The recreation area continues to experience high occupancy rates. The River District is hoping to renew a contract with the current concessionaire that operates the marina, boat ramp and campground.

Mr. Mueller, Colorado River District's General Manager, also discussed the history of the Colorado River Basin related to Bureau of Reclamation's recently announced actions to protect the system, and water scarcity in the upper and lower basin.  
*Continued on Page 2.*

## BOARD BUSINESS

**Commissioner Cimino** gave an update regarding the recent Mayor / Manager / Commissioner meeting in Winter Park. All six towns were represented, and discussed affordable housing, inclusionary zoning (HB21-1117), the Fraser River Valley Housing Partnership ballot initiative, short term rentals and childcare. A large portion of the discussion surrounded a new mental health program through the Grand Foundation (details to be announced soon).

Commissioners designated **Commissioner Cimino** as the primary voting member at the upcoming Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) legislative priorities meeting on October 7. **Commissioner Linke** was designated as the alternate voting member.



## COMMISSIONERS CALENDAR

- Sept 14** | Department Head Meeting
- Sept 14** | CWCB Colorado Water Plan Discussion
- Sept 15** | NACo West Region Regular Conference Call
- Sept 15** | Peak Health Alliance Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- Sept 15** | CCAT Ad Hoc Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- Sept 16** | Colorado River District Annual Water Seminar (Mesa State)
- Sept 16-18** | Stanko Ranch Community Dialogue "Living & Ranching & Wolves" (Steamboat Springs)
- Sept 17** | Military Veterans Park Dedication (Grand Lake)

[Click here to view the BOCC's full calendar.](#)

# COLORADO RIVER BASIN "BIG RIVER DISCUSSION"

Continued from page 1.

In addition to an update about Wolford Mountain Reservoir, Mr. Mueller provided the BOCC with an in-depth look at the history and current state of the Colorado River Basin, including:

- History of the Colorado River Compact;
- System operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead;
- How each basin's historical allocation of 7.5 million acre feet is impacted by hydrology and evaporation;
- Upper and Lower Basin responses to the Bureau of Reclamation's recently announced actions requiring lower basin states to cut their water usage.



*The City of Las Vegas has actually worked hard to recycle residential and resort water. Lake Bellagio, O, and all Bellagio property irrigation comes from replenished well water, from underground wells that are on site and water discharged from the pools in the O Theater. The latter goes directly to the lake. This results in the conservation of domestic potable water equivalent to the annual usage of 5,000 average residential pools. For its iconic fountain show in particular, the Bellagio uses water from a private well beneath the property — the water source for the old Dunes golf course — and thus does not further strain the Colorado River, the primary source of water for the Las Vegas Valley. (Source: Las Vegas Sun)*



[Click here to listen to audio of the discussion.](#)

## MANAGER'S UPDATE County Manager Ed Moyer

### County Road 522:

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers submitted a revised final draft of the MOA to address some of the comments submitted by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the mitigation plan.
- Per last week's request by the BOCC, Manager presented a map of the wetland mitigation areas, including a need to expand or exchange a portion of the county owned property at the Tabernash Wastewater Treatment facility.
  - Commissioners supported Manager's recommendation to hire a wetland specialist to perform an evaluation. Regarding County Road 522 project wetlands:
  - 3.95 total acres of wetlands will be impacted by the project.
  - 6.08 total acres of required mitigation (4.05 acres) and enhancement (2.03 acres).
  - [Click here to listen to the full discussion on this topic.](#)

### Fair Board Update:

- Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** updated BOCC on a recent Fair Board Meeting:
  - Two Fair Board members have announced their resignation.
  - The 2023 dates for the Middle Park Fair & Rodeo are August 6 - 13.
  - Discussion of the 2023 events line-up.
  - The next Fair Board meeting is scheduled for October 10 at the CSU Extension building.

- At the BOCC's request, a discussion regarding a proposed Wildland Urban Interface codes legislative bill with Grand Fire Protection District Chief **Brad White** will be scheduled for an upcoming meeting, ahead of CCAT's November policy meeting.
- CCI's Winter Conference was rescheduled for December 12-14, which conflicts with the date originally scheduled for adoption of the final budget. Adoption of the 2022 budget supplemental and 2023 final budget is now tentatively scheduled for December 20.
- Remediation is taking place at Henderson Mill's property in Kremmling, along with a feasibility study. Manager will continue to update BOCC on the matter.
- Release of Grand County's 1300 acre-foot pool from Granby Reservoir commenced the second week of August. This represents 50 percent of the 2021 unused Middle Park Water contracts. 25 CFS per was added to the Colorado River over a period of approximately 26 days in August and September, and will be curtailed on September 18.
- As a follow up item: A Workshop discussion of HB 21-1117: Local Government Authority to Promote Affordable Housing Units is currently scheduled for October 11.
- The Grand County Wildfire Council has requested discussion with the BOCC regarding long-term funding of the Wildfire Council.
- Governor Polis is visiting Grand Lake September 21 to Celebrate Main Street Open for Business project completion; Commissioner Linke is planning to attend.
- A Department Head meeting will take place tomorrow (Wednesday) morning at 8 a.m.

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

### Accounting

Vouchers and wire payments presented for payment by Finance Director **Curtis Lange** were approved as presented.

### Natural Resources

As requested by Natural Resources Foreman **Amy Sidener**, Commissioners authorized County Manager **Ed Moyer** as the signatory on the CDPHE Delegation of Authority amendment to Grand County for Limited pile burning permitting.

### Human Services

A services contract with Snow Martin, Inc. dba Cabin Works for janitorial cleaning services as the Department of Human Services building presented by Assistant Manager **Micah Benson** was approved as presented.

### Clerk & Recorder

Clerk & Recorder **Sara Rosene** presented a monthly report: Recording revenue is down slightly compared with 2020 and 2021, but is increased over the same period in 2019.

### Public Health

A request by Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** to apply for a Preventative Block Grant from the Office of Public Health Practice, Planning and Local Partnerships (OPHP) to help fund completion of the community health assessment was approved as presented.

### Treasurer

Treasurer **Marcy Wheatley** presented a monthly report:

- As of Sept. 6, 99% of the 2021 property taxes were paid.
- July's annual inflation rate of 8.5% was unchanged from the month before.
- Interest rates with the government investment pool accounts are approaching 2.5%.
- Grand County's July 2022 unemployment rate was 2.2%, compared with 4.8% in July 2021 and 8.7% in July 2020.

# Thank you!

*to our dedicated staff members celebrating employment anniversaries in September:*

Sean Curran, Sheriff's Office - 1 Year  
Austin Wingate, EMS - 1 Year  
Tekoa Shalom, Public Health - 2 Years  
Nathan Opsahl, Sheriff's Office - 3 Years  
Kathleen "Kacey" Beres, EMS - 3 Years  
Dustin Weston, GC Jail - 4 Years  
**Andrew Gross, GC Jail - 5 Years**  
Vicki Ellis, Community Development - 6 Years  
Steve Hines, Sheriff's Office - 7 Years  
Andrew O'Neil, Information Systems - 8 Years  
Art Aguilar, Maintenance - 9 Years  
**Nichole Fuqua, Human Services - 10 Years**  
Shannon McGill, EMS - 14 Years  
Mathew Williams, Road & Bridge - 16 Years

## PUBLIC HEARING

**Zoning Amendments, Changes to the Definition of Building Height (Section XX); Transfer of Section 14.5 (Floodplain Regulations) to a Newly Dedicated Section XXI; Various Changes to Formatting (All Sections); Correction Typographical Errors (All Sections)** | Approved with changes to building height.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Resolution No. 2022-9-2, Accepting subdivision improvements to Summit Trail Condominiums, Building F** | Approved as presented.

**Resolution No. 2022-2-10, Ownership name change from Flintstone Gravel & Trucking to Flintstone Gravel Pit** | Approved as presented.

**Resolution 2021-2-19, Amended Final Plat, Lot 1, Granby Lakeshore Estates** | Approved as presented.

**Amended Final Plat, Lots 8 & 21, Colorado Angler's Club No. 1, Block 9** | Approved as presented.

## WORKSHOP

### COUNTY WORKPLACES STRATEGY

Commissioner Cimino led a discussion regarding the County's workplace needs. Commissioners directed staff to include a line item in the budget for future building opportunities, to be further determined pursuant to the BOCC's Strategic Plan and 2019 Needs Assessment, reprioritization of facility and improvement project needs, as well as when future opportunities arise. *As this was a Workshop, no decisions were made.*

# Welcome!

Connor Price - Road & Bridge  
Sue James(re-hire) - GC Jail  
Angel Higginbotham - Human Resources  
Katie Smith - Treasurer's Office  
Jason Boedigheimer - Public Health  
Patience Kinzie - GC Home Care / Public Health



*Commissioner Linke presented Andrew Gross (left) and Nichole Fuqua with certificates recognizing their years of service to Grand County. Thank you, Andrew and Nichole!*



*R&B Superintendent Chris Baer presented Coins of Excellence to Office Supervisor Kay Borda (left) and Heavy Equipment Mechanic Brad Geist recognizing their superior efforts.*