



Grand County

Colorado

Richard Cimino | District 1

Merrit Linke | District 2

Randy George | District 3



Winter in Grand Lake photo courtesy of Grand Lake Mayor **Steve Kudron**.

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BLUE VALLEY LAND EXCHANGE

The Grand County Board of County Commissioners applauds the Bureau of Land Management's decision to approve the Blue Valley Land Exchange. On January 17, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released its Notice of Decision approving the exchange, which will open more than 1,000 acres to the public for recreation activities, and will also provide better access to the Blue River and Green Mountain.

Included in the exchange is the creation of the Confluence Recreation Area at the intersection of the Blue and Colorado Rivers near Kremmling. This new recreation area, being developed at no cost to taxpayers, will include:

- More than two miles of walking trails;
- Two miles of new contiguous fishing access on the Blue River;
- New permanent takeouts and rest stops for river floaters, including a boat ramp;
- Significant river habitat enhancements to support a nearly one-mile long fishery of gold-medal quality;
- A large picnic area;
- Two new parking areas;
- Wheelchair-accessible fishing platforms, and more.

Click here to read the press release that includes more project details.

BOARD BUSINESS

An out-of-state travel request presented by **Commissioner Cimino** for his travel to attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. in February was approved by **Commissioners Linke and George**.

Commissioner George gave an update regarding his recent tour of Freeport McMoran's Henderson Mill operations.

Salaries for County Officers

Commissioners led a discussion with other Grand County Elected Officials regarding Salaries for County Officers. Pursuant to C.R.S. Section 30-2-102, Salaries for County Officers (elected officials) are determined by each county's category - based on population and assessed values. Grand County is currently Category III-B.

Commissioners approved submitting Grand County for reclassification to Category II-A to the State legislature through Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI).

Any changes made to the Salaries for County Officials must be approved by the State Legislature and Governor. No Elected Officials can approve a salary increase for themselves during their term; if the reclassification is approved, it will not be enacted until the next election.



COMMISSIONERS

CALENDAR

Jan 18 | Bi-Annual Update to the Town of Kremmling

Jan 19 | Peak Health Alliance Executive Meeting (Zoom)

Jan 20 | Northwest TPR (Zoom)

Jan 23 | Colorado River Basin Roundtable (Glenwood Springs or Zoom)

Click here to view the BOCC's full calendar.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

COUNTY ROAD 522

The County has received a letter from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the February 6 deadline to update the Wetland Mitigation Plan and Financial Assurance required to extend the 404 Permit. Financial Assurance can be met with documentation that it is included 2023 budget. Manager will provide USACE a Wetland Mitigation update from the field work conducted last fall by the consultant contracted by the County.

HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING

The County has received the Title Commitment regarding purchase of the Grand County Human Services Building located at 129 Byers Ave. in Hot Sulphur Springs. The Title Objection deadline is January 24.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Manager discussed 2023 capital projects, including EMS Stations 1 and 2, and Parshall and Kremmling Road & Bridge shops. Funding sources being considered are Congressional Directed Spending, DOLA Energy Impact Assistance Grant and Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) via the U.S. Department of Transportation. BOCC requested additional discussion and prioritization of grant writing at next week's meeting.

GRANBY RESERVOIR BOAT RAMP

A concerned citizen has contacted the County regarding when the boat ramps at Granby Reservoir will open. The Manager's Office will be contacting Colorado Parks & Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service to clarify their plans for opening boat ramps once ice has melted.

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Department of Natural Resources has introduced a draft bill regarding Stream Restoration, concerning projects that preserve or restore the environmental health of natural streams or riparian areas. If passed, this could have an impact on downstream irrigators. Manager will update BOCC as more information becomes available.

MILK CREEK

BACKGROUND: The Milk Creek State Trust Lands (17,801.15 acres north of Kremmling) was nominated for the State Land Board's Stewardship Trust. Prior to issuing their support, the BOCC directed staff to schedule a discussion on the topic with Stewardship Trust Manager **Lindsey Brandt**. All of the lessees have been invited to attend the Stewardship Trust presentation on February 7th at 1 p.m.

KREMMLING AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** provided an update regarding the status of Kremmling Airport's Master Plan update being conducted by Armstrong Consulting: Chapters 1 and 2 have been reviewed and updated by the TAC; a draft of Chapter 3 (Aviation Demand) was sent to TAC for review last week. Following TAC's review it must be approved by the FAA.

Ms. Benson also discussed Road & Bridge vehicles are assigned to specific employees that may be used to commute between home and work. As with Sheriff's deputies, EMS crew and the Coroner, this policy allows for faster response times during emergencies.

AIRPORT ADVISORY UPDATE

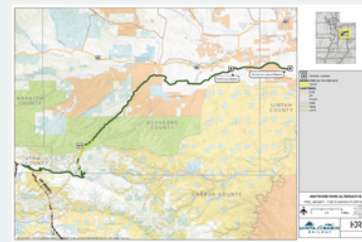


Dennis Carpenter with the Airport Advisory Committee gave a Grand County Airports update that included:

- The Colorado Airports survey currently taking place;
- Property taxes on hangars at each of Grand County's airports:
 - Granby Airport = \$24,021.88
 - Kremmling Airport = \$23,245.16
- Hangar rental revenue:
 - Granby added two hangars in 2022; total rent was \$24,737.71.
 - Kremmling added nine new hangars in 2022; total rent was \$12,717.03.
- Capital improvement planning.
- Airport traffic summary:
 - Some of the data is incomplete due to power outages, but overall the new system is providing the Committee with much stronger data on traffic at each of the airports.

The BOCC would like to THANK the Airport Advisory Committee members for the volunteer time they have dedicated to help with various construction projects at the airports!

UINTA RR LETTER UPDATE



Trout Unlimited (TU) Colorado River Headwaters Chapter board members **Kirk Klancke, Mark Eddy** and **Rich Newton** gave a presentation to the BOCC regarding TU's position on the Uinta Basin Railway, and requested that the BOCC:

- Update their March 8, 2022 letter to Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper on the matter to include:
 - That an experienced contractor be retained for clean up of any spills;
 - That the plan require approval by CDPHE, CPW and TU;
 - That an escrow account be created to cover expenses from any spills.
- Change their position to firmly oppose the trains carrying waxy crude until these conditions are met.

Commissioners directed staff to work with the TU Colorado River Headwaters Chapter to draft a second letter incorporating these requests.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Accounting

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

Public Health

A First Amendment to the Services Contract with PurFoods, LLC presented by Public Health Director **Abbie Baker** was approved as presented. The amendment increases the amount the County pays per meal delivered as part of the Mom's Meals program to \$8.99.

Ms. Baker also gave an update on the number of vaccines administered by public health, along with Grand County's risk level for flu, COVID and other respiratory illnesses.

Emergency Medical Services

Commissioners previously approved an updated EMS fee schedule. The BOCC approved an amendment to Resolution No. 2022-10-13, attaching the correct fee schedule (previously approved by the BOCC) to the Resolution, as presented by EMS **Chief Robert Good**.

Judicial Services

Commissioners approved the Juvenile Services Planning Committee Recommendations as presented by Judicial Services Director **Kelly Friesen**.

Housing Authority

Operations Manager **Sheena Darland** gave a brief update regarding the roof replacement of Black Bear Lodge, and the status of the quit claim deed for the Lodge (from the Grand Foundation).

Community Development / Assessor's Office

An out-of-state travel request jointly submitted by Community Development Director **Kristen Manguso** and Assessor **Tom Weydert** for four staff members to attend FutureView 2023 (the EagleView user conference) in San Antonio, Texas in April was approved as presented. EagleView is covering all expenses for staff with the exception of travel to and from Denver International Airport.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Resolution No. 2022-10-21, Special Use Permit for Expert Excavation, LLC | Approved as presented.

Resolution No. 2023-01-15, Temporary Use Permit for RMSHA Snowmobile Hill Climb | Approved as presented.

**MORE
INFO**

Find Support Documents for ALL requests and presentations:

1. Click on the Agendas & Minutes icon on website homepage.
2. Navigate to the appropriate County Commissioners meeting agenda.
3. Click on the link in the Agenda to support documents, and navigate to the corresponding folder.

HEADWATERS LAND TRUST



At the BOCC's request in a previous meeting, Colorado Headwaters Land Trust Executive Director **Jeremy Krones** provided Commissioners with an overview of Conservation Easements:

Conservation Easements are perpetual, voluntary legal agreements between a willing landowner and a qualified conservation organization (e.g. a land trust) that protects certain resources on the property through restricting development and certain uses of the land. A Conservation Easement does **not** transfer ownership of the land – rather, it describes a landowner's guarantee that their property will be protected.

Conservation Agreements are non-perpetual ("termed") agreements, and usually benefit specific ecosystem services. Conservation Agreements function more like leases (e.g. a wildlife department leases the land from its owner, and the department manages it on a day-to-day basis).

Colorado Headwaters Land Trust currently has 66 conservation easements in Grand County.

WORKSHOP | OLRT BALLOT QUESTION DISCUSSION

On behalf of the Open Lands, Rivers and Trails (OLRT) Advisory Committee, Administrator **Anna Drexler-Dreis** led a Workshop with the BOCC to provide an overview of the OLRT Fund and funded projects.

Since 2018, the OLRT Fund has awarded \$3.3 million to 10 open lands and rivers projects, and \$1.4 million to 61 trail maintenance projects. Funds have been awarded to 13 organizations, including three towns. The voter-approved Fund will sunset on December 31, 2026.

The Advisory Committee is seeking guidance on the process for asking Grand County voters to renew the ballot measure. If a new or revised ballot question moves forward, considerations based on grant recipient feedback could include expanding the scope of projects that can be funded, providing better definitions for those projects, and including winter trail grooming / multi-use trails projects.

Stakeholders, including the OLRT Advisory Committee, Headwaters Trails Alliance, USFS Sulphur Ranger District, Headwaters Land Trust, and others also expressed their thoughts and opinions on the subject.

BOCC requested a follow-up Workshop to be scheduled in early March to further the discussion. **As this was a Workshop, no decisions were made.**