



Grand County

Colorado

Richard Cimino | District 1
Merrit Linke | District 2
Randal George | District 3



Fresh corduroy photo courtesy Winter Park Resort.

In this issue:

Employee Recognition

Page 2

Board Business
Manager's Update
Department Business

Page 3

CDOT Updates
Delta Dental Plan Options
Uinta Basin Railroad Update
Tourism Board Workshop



WHY DOES THE GRINCH ENJOY GARDENING?

He's got a green thumb.



STAFF RECOGNITION

Welcome!

Jacob Cosper, Sheriff's Office
Monique Lussie, Public Health
Grant Culver, Road & Bridge
Haim Becker, Community Dev.
DeeAnna Jones, Home Care
Christine Murphy, Assessor's Office
Patrick Starr, Sheriff's Office
Kirk Gulland, Information Systems



Thank you!

One Year
Joanne Morse, Clerk & Recorder
Kathleen Rose, Public Health
William Wheatley, Road & Bridge
Brian Macchione, Sheriff's Office
Victoria Macchione, Sheriff's Office
Jared Palonis, Road & Bridge

Pictured above with Commissioner Cimino clockwise from left: Kendra Wilkinson, Cynthia McCoy, Alexis Kimbrough, Andrew Smyth.

Two Years
Tyler Mathis, Sheriff's Office
Jessica Snow, Sheriff's Office

Three Years
Erin Opsahl, Sheriff's Office
Cassandra O'Brien, Sheriff's Office

Four Years
Chief Robert Good, EMS

Five Years
Kendra Wilkinson, Coroner's Office
David Miller, Sheriff's Office
Cynthia McCoy, Manager's Office
Alexis Kimbrough, OEM
Andrew Smyth, EMS

Nine Years
Ricky Sharrow, Court Security

Ten Years
Robert Adams, Road & Bridge

Eleven Years
Sheriff Brett Schroetlin

Twelve Years
David Webb, Road & Bridge

Sixteen Years
Rachel Drewett, Community Development

Seventeen Years
Fred Sidell, Assessor's Office

Twenty Years
Audrey Jennings, EMS



BOARD BUSINESS

Commissioners approved County staff members to serve as a proxy per CCI's bylaws.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

County Manager **Ed Moyer** and Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** gave the following updates:

- The County has launched an internship program for seniors (ages 60 and over) and disabled individuals to provide work opportunities that might help cover the cost of increased property taxes. The program provides individuals with more flexibility than typical part-time employment would. Jobs are available in the Clerk & Recorder's Office, Emergency Management, Maintenance and Manager's Office.
- Windy Gap Reservoir is now being re-filled in a slow, controlled process to allow engineers to monitor the new connectivity channel as the reservoir fills. Wolford Reservoir is making releases to cover the Shoshone call.
- Commissioners will be meeting with the Colorado Oil and Gas Association on Friday, December 15 in Denver.
- Commissioners requested a workshop at a future meeting regarding the State Wetland Regulations topic discussed at a recent Northwest Colorado County of Governments (NWCCOG) Quality & Quantity Committee meeting.
- Staff is continuing to evaluate the County's current liability requirements compared to government immunity limits. A recommendation will be brought to the BOCC a future date.
- The public is invited to participate in the Wreaths Across America ceremony this Saturday, December 16 at 10 a.m. at the Kremmling cemetery. A reception will follow at the CSU Extension Hall.
- Staff is invited to don an Ugly Christmas Sweater and join us at next week's BOCC meeting to watch the 2023 Year End video and announcement of the holiday decoration contest.
- County Attorney **Maxine LaBarre-Krostue** presented a draft resolution concerning a Policy Prohibiting Hunting on County-Owned, Leased, or Jointly Held Public Lands. Commissioners requested several changes to language to focus on safety; the resolution will be brought back at a future date.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

ACCOUNTING

Vouchers, wire payments, and interfund transfers for payment on Wednesday, December 13 were approved as presented by Finance Director **Curtis Lange**.

A Services Contract with Hilltop Securities, Inc. for municipal advisory services for funding upcoming construction projects was also approved as presented.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Last week the BOCC gave direction for Director **Colleen Reynolds** to make several modifications to the Personnel Manual and bring it back for review. Today the amended Personnel Manual was approved as presented.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A request to apply for an Emergency Management Performance Grant through FEMA was approved as presented by Director **Alexis Kimbrough**.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

A Services Contract with David Kilty, Inc. dba Kilty & Company Valuation and Advisory Services for appraisal services related to a specific property in Winter Park was approved as presented by Assessor **Tom Wydert**.

Decision regarding the Mr. Wydert's request to hire a part-time contractor was continued until next week to obtain additional information.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Foreman **Amy Sidener** gave an update regarding the Bureau of Land Management's Draft Resource Management Plan and EIS for Greater Sage Grouse. As a cooperating agency, Grand County was given a two-week Administrative Review period.

AIRPORTS

Commissioners approved re-appointing Airport Advisory Committee (AAC) members **Dennis Carpenter** and **Ryan Foshia** to three-year terms beginning January 1 as requested by Supervisor **Josh Schroeder**. Commissioners also requested that an at-large AAC vacancy be advertised to the public.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Treasurer **Marcy Wheatley** gave a monthly update that included an update regarding the deadline for tax roll certification. The recent property tax relief action taken by the Colorado Legislature moved to certification deadline to January 24, 2024. **These changes do not alter the first-half payment due date for property taxes. First half property tax payments are due on February 29, 2024** (2024 is a leap year). Property owners should expect their property tax bill after January 24, and can also view their account online.

DECEMBER DATE REMINDERS

December 19 - 2023 Year in Review presentation

December 22 - County offices close at noon

December 25 - County offices closed for Christmas

CDOT UPDATES

Rick Ridder, the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) new Commissioner for District 6 met with Commissioners to discuss his priorities for the District, which included wildlife corridors and the (in)efficiencies of the I-70 corridor. (The wildlife corridor on Hwy 9 between Kremmling and Silverthorne has reduced wildlife-related accidents by 90 percent and is considered the "gold standard" of wildlife corridors.)

Mr. Ridder requested to have a future meeting with Commissioners to discuss specific problem roadways in Grand County, including County Road 1 (Trough Road) and the implications to US Hwy 40 when I-70 closes.



Pictured above from left: CDOT District 6 Commissioner Rick Ridder, Clerk & Recorder Jolene Linke, Commissioner Randy George, Commissioner Rich Cimino and Commissioner Merrit Linke.

US 40 / Grand County Projects

East Region Engineer **Karen Berdoulay** and CDOT staff also gave an update regarding the US Hwy 40 / Red Dirt Hill safety project that included:

- The Transportation Planning Region (TPR) Boundary Study
 - Administrative recommendations from CDOT staff
 - CDOT staff recommendation for TPR boundaries
- Upcoming projects in Grand County:
 - Red Dirt Hill safety improvements
 - Paving on Berthoud Pass MM 226.5-233
 - Fraser Capacity Improvements Study
 - CO 9 railroad bridge south of Kremmling
 - US 40 shoulder improvements east and west of Kremmling
 - US 40 and US 34 intersection improvements
- Status of the US 40 Speed Study
 - CDOT is preparing signage plans for implementation of changes in 2024:
 - Phase 1 work (MM 217 to 218.9) to be constructed in 2025
 - Phase 2 work (MM 218.9 to 221.9) to be constructed when funding is available FY 27+

Region 3 Section 6 Maintenance Superintendent **Spencer Dickey** also gave an update regarding staffing, maintenance on Hwy 125, and snow removal on the west side of Berthoud Pass. Region 3 has partnered with Region 1 (which is responsible for maintaining the east side of Berthoud Pass) to clear snow and provide maintenance on Grand County's side of the pass.

DELTA DENTAL PLAN OPTIONS

Grand County's HUB representative reviewed the County's 2023 dental claims, and made recommendations for 2024 to reduce employee's cost of dental work. Changing the way Grand County's out-of-network reimbursement is set up within Delta Dental would help reduce costs for employees who seek services out of the PPO network.

Commissioners approved changing to a 90th percentile Usual Customary and Reasonable (UCR) charges (to help reduce employees' out-of-pocket costs to see an out-of-network provider), contingent on review and concurrence of the Insurance Committee.

UINTA BASIN RR UPDATE

Water Quality Specialist **Kayli Foulk** gave an update regarding the Uinta Basin Rail Road, in particular the Wildcat Loadout Expansion Project.

The Wildcat project would significantly increase the capacity of the facility located outside of Price, Utah by more than 230 percent, resulting in an average of one two-mile-long train per day through Grand County and alongside the Colorado River and Fraser River.

Commissioners gave direction for staff to draft a letter to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) communicating Grand County's stance on the matter, and emphasizing the need for a comprehensive environmental impact statement before the Wildcat Loadout Expansion Project is approved.



Pictured above: the Wildcat Loadout Facility near Price, Utah, courtesy John Weisheit and Aspen Journalism.

TOURISM BOARD WORKSHOP

Grand County Tourism Board President **Ron Ellis** and Interim Executive Director **Gaylene Ore** led a discussion regarding a potential ballot initiative in 2024 related to HB 22-1117, Use of Local Lodging Tax Revenue.

With voter approval, the act expands the allowable uses of the revenue from a local marketing district's marketing and promotion tax and a county's lodging tax to include:

- Housing and childcare for the tourism-related workforce;
- Facilitating and enhancing visitor experiences; and
- Capital expenditures related to these new purposes.

As this was a Workshop, no decisions were made.