



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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TO: Board of County Commissioners
Scott Vargo
Jeff Huntley
FROM: Sara R. Lopez
RE: Work Session Meeting of May 25, 2021
DATE: Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Attendees:

Elected Officials: Elisabeth Lawrence, Tamara Pogue and Joshua Blanchard – Commissioners
Jaime FitzSimons - Sheriff

Staff: Scott Vargo, County Manager; Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; Sarah Vaine, Assistant County Manager; Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager; Marty Ferris, Finance Director; Keely Ambrose, Assistant County Attorney; Nicole Valentine, Communications Director; Brian Lorch, Open Space & Trails Director; Jim Curnutte, Community Development Director; Peter Haynes, Undersheriff; Christine Zenel, Resource Specialist and Sara R Lopez, Administrative Assistant.

Staff (via Zoom): Robert Jacobs, Road & Bridge Director; David Reynolds, Assistant Finance Director; Michael Wurzel, Sustainability Coordinator and April Paige, Executive Administrative Manager

Guest: Adam Bianchi.

Guests (via Zoom): Adam Bianchi, Charlie Campbell, Fritz Homann, Grant Anderson, Gretchen Davies, Jeff Durbin, Jeff Tatkenhorst, Jenna deJong, Jeff Grabham, Johnny Johnston, Julie George, Kane Schnider, Kathy Hall, Ken Riley, Mark Johnston, Michael Goolsby, Michelle Eddy, Peter Grosshuesch, Renee Imamura, Rob Beck, Scott Obrien, Shellie Duplan, Taylor Howes, Tony Cammarata, Zane Znamenacek, and others who did not sign in.

I. Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) Update

Taylor Hawes gave an update on several items, including but not limited to:

- Hydrology

With the exception of February and March of 2021, monthly precipitation amounts for most of the last two (2) years have been consistently below average within the Colorado River District (CRD). In fact, across measurement locations and periods of record, the last 24 months are breaking climatic records across the Upper Colorado River Basin (UCRB) as being some of driest and warmest periods in the last 30 years.

- Colorado River Cooperative Agreement (CRCA) Implementation Relative to Summit County

The CRCA began a long-term partnership between Denver Water and the West Slope. The agreement is a framework for numerous actions by the parties to benefit water supply, water quality, recreation, and the environment on both sides of the Continental Divide. On a CRCA related matter, CRD staff recently met with Denver Water and representatives of Summit County CRCA-beneficiaries in an attempt to bridge an impasse regarding proposed amendments to the CRCA.

- Colorado Spring's Diligence Case on Continental/ Hoosier Pass Project & Montgomery Reservoir

CRD staff continue to meet regularly with representatives of Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) to resolve West Slope concerns with CSU's diligence application for the conditional (meaning not firmed elements of their project and water rights) components of its Upper Blue Continental/Hoosier Pass trans-mountain diversion project.

- Ballot Initiative 7A and Partnership Funding Program

Ballot measure 7A, which passed last November, increased the mill levy in the 15-county district from 0.252 mills to 0.5 mills. Property tax collections at the 0.5 mill rate will take effect in 2021, and they are expected to raise \$4.9 million in additional revenue. \$4.2 million of this revenue will directly fund projects to secure water supplies on the West Slope in five categories: productive agriculture, infrastructure, healthy rivers, watershed health and water quality, conservation and efficiency. The rest will address budgetary restrictions caused by the Gallagher Amendment and Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. No new staff positions will be created with this revenue. The program is now accepting applications.

Ms. Hawes also gave an overview of the local reservoirs and the drought conditions. She noted that with the increased population in Denver, the Dillon Dam Reservoir's volume would continue to fluctuate.

Commissioner Lawrence said that water needs for Summit County are different from others due to the number of recreational options available. Ms. Hawes said she works with the CRWD Board to make sure local needs are heard. From Michael Wurzel, the Open Space Department may be applying for a grant for the Swan River Restoration Reach B from this funding source.

Commissioners emphasized the need for water conservation education in the community and with businesses, to make them aware that the county is in an extended severe drought; Scott Vargo noted that water providers should to be included in the conversation.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Hawes for her work and efforts for the county.

II. **Managers' & Commissioners' Issues**

Senior Management and Commissioners discussed several topics including but not limited to:

Summit County Preschool Program was nominated for the National Association of Counties (NACo) and was granted a 2021 Achievement Award for its program titled "Summit County Pre School Program" in the category of Children and Youth. Due to its exceptional results and unique innovations,

the program was chosen to receive the honor of Best in Category! Each year, one program in each of the 18 categories receives the Best in Category designation.

Nicole Valentine will submit two Letters to the Editor regarding the Blue River Apartments and communications with the US Postal Service (USPS).

Bentley Henderson discussed the following topics:

- Housing update.
- Little Beaver Trail drainage improvement project. They are currently looking into cost as well as other options.
- The Weed Control department is short-staffed and may not be able to get to most projects in time.

Commissioner Lawrence discussed the following:

- Update on the Dillon Valley roundabout discussion, as she was unable to attend.
- Update on Congressman's Neguse visit on Monday, May 24, 2021.
- Discussion on whether to move up the opening of county offices on June 7, 2021.
- Continuing Zoom meetings after the Old Courthouse Building opens. It was agreed to keep Zoom going but the focus will be on what is happening inside the room. They also agreed to remove the chat option from the Work Session Zoom Meetings. Jeff Huntley noted it is not a requirement to accept Public Comments during Work Session; therefore, it will be up to Commissioners to decide if they wish to allow them.

Commissioners discussed the proposed EV Readiness Plan presented at the May 18, 2021 Work Session. Concerns regarding grid capacity and equity study were brought up. Commissioners agreed to move forward with the adoption, but would also like to have their concerns addressed.

Commissioners also reviewed schedules and upcoming calendar events.

III. Bi-Annual CDOT / BOCC Joint Meeting

Summit County Government and CDOT staff gave an update on several topics including but not limited to:

Project Update Status:

- Exit 203 Frisco
- Silverthorne Hill Auxiliary Lane
- Exit 205 Silverthorne
- Highway 9 Gap project
- Countywide seasonal maintenance activities
- Transportation Funding moving forward

Other Topics

Mr. Goolsby said semi-trucks not having chains on their tires, caused problems, and many semi drivers do not carry chains, do not know how to put them on, or would rather pay a fine rather than

chaining up. Unfortunately, there is no mandatory training for semi drivers driving in Colorado's winter conditions, but CDOT is working with them to educate them.

Commissioners thanked CDOT staff for their presentation. The next CDOT/BOCC Joint Meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. during the BOCC Work Session.

IV. Overview and Discussion of Quandary Peak Management Recommendations (Open Space & Trails)

Brian Lorch, Jim Curnutte, Christine Zenel, Bentley Henderson, Mandi Roberts, Katherine Woodhouse, Jake Jorgenson and Todd Rankin gave an update on several topics including but not limited to:

Commissioners and staff discussed the information shared at the May 18, 2021 BOCC Work Session and proposed different solutions.

These issues include:

- Trailhead capacity issues
- Parking Issues
- Safety Concerns: impeded maintenance & emergency access
- Neighborhood concerns
- Lack of Cell Phone Coverage

Suggested Solutions:

- Expand parking lot from 65 parking spaces to 85 – *can be completed this summer*
- Implement visitor use management
- Develop public/visitor communications
- Sponsor & manage volunteer or summer job ambassadors program
- Evaluate shuttle/bus options
- Evaluate potential permit/reservation system options in tandem with shuttling & managed parking

Commissioners agreed to the following:

- Expansion of the parking lot to 85 spots, with turnaround capability for shuttle services
- Delineating of the parking spots
- Allow parking only on one side of the road and placing physical barriers so people do not park on those areas. Mr. Bianchi noted the need for enough space for people to turn around.
- Volunteer Groups: Commissioner Blanchard said that even if volunteers cannot enforce the rules, they could share information and help educate visitors.

Ms. Roberts mentioned that, in her work with the USFS, pilot programs normally last 2-3 years because it takes a long time to get people to remember, learn and participate in the program. Mr. Henderson said they will look into the recommendations and will bring an update to the Board at the BOCC Work Session scheduled for June 29, 2021 at 1:15 pm.

Commissioner Lawrence thanked the team for their participation, and thanked the neighbors for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Commissioners reconvened after Regular Meeting into an Extended Afternoon Work Session, then moved into an Executive Session at 2:05 p.m.

V. Discussion of Legal Resolutions, Real Estate Negotiations, Legislative, and Litigation Matters. (Attorney) (Executive Session Recommended)

Scott Vargo and Jeff Huntley requested an Executive Session to discuss Legal Issues including Real Estate Negotiations, Legislative, and Litigation Matters.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pogue and seconded by Commissioner Blanchard to go into Executive Session to discuss Legal Issues including Real Estate Negotiations, Legislative, and Litigation Matters. BOCC voted 3 to 0 to go into Executive Session per CRS 24-6-402 (4) (a)(b)(e). The motion was approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Sara R Lopez, Deputy Clerk



Approved by:



Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair