

Ridgway Town Council  
Regular Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020  
201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado

**5:30 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL** Councilors Robb Austin, Tessa Cheek, Ninah Hunter, Beth Lakin, Russ Meyer, Mayor Pro Tem Eric Johnson and Mayor John Clark

**ADDITIONS & DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR** All matters listed under the consent calendar are considered to be routine by the Town Council and enacted by one motion. The Council has received and considered reports and recommendations prior to assigning consent calendar designations. Copies of the reports are on file in the Town Clerk's Office and are available to the public. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If discussion is requested, that item will be removed from the consent calendar and considered separately.

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2020.
2. Register of Demands for February 2020.
3. Renew liquor license for Colorado Boy Depot.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** Established time for the public to address the Council regarding any item not otherwise listed on the agenda. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person.

**PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS** Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; discussion of each item may be limited to 20 minutes.

4. Request to renew agreement with Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce for percentage of lodging tax remittances to provide marketing services for the Town - Hilary Lewkowitz.
5. Presentation from Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership regarding Annual Report, Watershed Guide and River Watch Program - Tanya Ishikawa.
6. Request from Habitat for Humanity to support the tri-plex project on Laura Street by contributing the remaining balance for water and sewer tap fees - Erica Weeks, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of the San Juan's.
7. Request to use the Town parking lot on the southeast corner of Hartwell Park for parking lot sale on May 9<sup>th</sup> - Bernadette Taylor, on behalf of Friends of Ridgway Schools.

**POLICY MATTERS** Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; overall discussion of each item may be limited to 20 minutes.

8. Review and adopt the application for International Dark Sky Community Designation - Town Planner.
9. Authorization for Mayor Clark to sign letter of support for Clearnetworkx funding request from the Department of Regulatory Agencies to expand broadband network in Ouray County - Town Manager.

10. Approve letter of support for scholarship funds to attend the annual CML conference - Mayor Clark.
11. Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Ridgway, City of Ouray and Ouray County for Shared Victim Advocate Services - Town Attorney.
12. Temporary Access Agreement between the Town of Ridgway, Echo Properties Corp., Railroad Depot Funding LLC, Ridgway Railroad Museum and Ouray County Ranch History Museum - Town Attorney.

**WRITTEN REPORTS** Written reports may be provided for informational purposes prior to the meeting updating Council on various matters that may or may not warrant discussion and action.

13. Ridgway Creative District and Main Street Program Reports.
14. Town Manager's Report.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS** Informational verbal reports from Councilors pertaining to the following committees, commissions and organizations:

Council Appointed Committees, Commissions, Task Forces:

Ridgway Parks, Trails & Open Space Committee - Councilors Austin and Mayor Pro Tem Johnson  
Ridgway Planning Commission - Councilor Cheek and Mayor Clark  
Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team - Councilor Hunter  
Ridgway Scholarship Committee - Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark

Council Board Appointments:

Ouray County Weed Board - Councilor Lakin; alternate - Town Engineer  
Ouray County Joint Planning Board - Councilor Meyer, citizens Rod Fitzhugh & Tom McKenney; alternate-Mayor Pro Tem Johnson  
Sneffels Energy Board - Councilor Lakin and Public Works Services Administrator; alternate - Mayor Pro Tem Johnson  
Region 10 Board - Mayor Clark  
WestCO Dispatch Board - Town Marshal; alternate - Town Manager  
Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region - Town Manager; alternate - Public Works Services Administrator  
Ouray County Transit Committee - Public Works Services Administrator; alternate - Town Manager  
Ouray County Water Users Association - Councilor Meyer  
Ouray County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee - Councilor Austin.

Council Participation and Liaisons:

Chamber of Commerce - Councilmember Hunter  
Communities That Care Coalition - Mayor Clark  
Ouray County Fairgrounds - Councilor Austin

**ADJOURNMENT**

Deadline for agenda items for next regular meeting, Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., Town Clerk's Office, 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado.

# Consent Agenda

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 8, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Community Center at 201 North Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. In attendance Councilors Austin, Cheek, Hunter, Lakin, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark. Councilmember Meyer was not present for the roll call.

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Clark welcomed and introduced the new Town Manager, Preston Neill.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2019.
2. Pursuant to state statute designate the Town Hall bulletin board as the official posting place.
3. Register of Demands for January 2020.
4. Renewal of liquor store liquor license for San Juan Liquor.

ACTION:

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, seconded by Councilor Lakin and unanimously carried to approve the consent calendar.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. Final Plat for Filing 2 of RiverSage Subdivision

Town Planner Shay Coburn presented an application for final plat approval for RiverSage Subdivision Filing 2. She reported at the January Planning Commission meeting it was recommended the Council approve the request. The development was constructed in two phases, each with eight lots, and includes dedication of 21 acres of park land. Approval includes a Subdivision Improvements and Lien Agreement (SIA) to address items which are completed. This includes an additional layer of road base and compaction, drainage improvements and overall site clean up; items which can not be completed due to winter weather conditions. She noted the proposed lien on one of the lots will "cover improvements" if the items are not completed.

Applicant Rick Weaver addressed construction of the road, noting all utilities are installed except phone line pedestals. Drainage infrastructure is currently being installed. After completion of the roads, piles of soil debris will be placed on two building sites to create building envelope height. Revegetation will be accomplished similar to the first phase, through the use of Colorado natural grass seed. He estimated the improvements will be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

There were questions and comments from the Council.



ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Hunter to approve final plat for RiverSage Subdivision Filing 2. Councilor Cheek seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Hunter moved, and Councilor Austin seconded to amend the motion to include the two conditions as specified in the staff report, the motion carried unanimously.

POLICY MATTERS

5. Subdivision Improvements and Lien Agreement for RiverSage Filing 2

The Planner presented a subdivision improvements and lien agreement for RiverSage Filing 2. She noted the lien will be placed on Lot 15, with a completion date of June 1, 2020.

ACTION:

Councilor Lakin moved to approve the Subdivision Improvements and Lien Agreement for RiverSage Filing 2. Councilor Hunter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

6. Release of RiverSage Filing 1 Subdivision Improvements and Lien Agreement

Planner Coburn presented a release on the lien of subdivision improvements for the first phase of RiverSage Subdivision. During prior meetings the Council released the applicant from requirements pertaining to the pedestrian bridge and installation of lights on the vehicular bridge.

Councilor Meyer entered the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

ACTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, and seconded by Councilor Austin to release the Subdivision Improvements and Lien Agreement for RiverSage Filing 1. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

7. Request for extension of preliminary plat submittal for Vista Park Commons PUD

Staff Reported dated 1-8-20 presenting a request for extension of the preliminary plat submittal for Vista Park Commons PUD; letter dated 1-3-20 from applicant Joe Nelson explaining the request to continue the previous extension is being submitted due to health issues with a member of the development team.

Planner Coburn reported the preliminary plat was approved on 8-14-19 with conditions to be met in 90 days. On 11-13-19 the applicant requested a 60 day extension, which the Council granted. The current request is for 90 days, with a deadline of April 10, 2020. She explained, "staff is confident" the applicant can meet the requirements.

ACTION:

Councilor Austin moved to approve the extension of preliminary plat submittal for Vista Park Commons PUD. Councilor Lakin seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

8. Report from Ride the Rockies pertaining to impacts of the event to be held in June

Staff Report dated 1-3-20 from the Planner and Community Initiative Facilitator presenting background on Town participation in the 2017 Ride the Rockies event.

Deirdre Moynihan, Tour Director with the annual Ride the Rockies bike tour event addressed the Council. She explained she has been made aware the 2017 Ride the Rockies event was “disappointing for Ridgway” and noted, she was not tour director at the time. She acknowledged “what a tremendous job you did” and “did not reap the benefits”, and apologized on behalf of the Denver Post event committee. She reported the committee has reassessed how the event effects “small towns” and regulations have changed regarding hosting. Until recently, she explained, the event would ask hosting jurisdictions to provide specific items, and stated “it is different now”, we are “not asking you for anything”.

Ms. Moynihan reported the Ouray County Fairgrounds has agreed to place all infrastructure for the event. “We would like to spend two nights in one place” and “experience the area”; the event will draw cyclists from “49 of the 50 states”, and “10 or 11 countries”. She explained Town staff has expressed concerns regarding traffic due to the event occurring on the same dates as the Blue Grass Festival in Telluride. She reported she has spoken to the Colorado Department of Transportation and State Highway Patrol stated “they will do what needs to be done” to “not take up local law enforcement time”. This years event route will be from Norwood to Ridgway, a 40 mile distance, and create “a short day.” The event staff will be facilitating “food and entertainment”. She requested input from the Council on the proposal, noting the only request from the Town would be use of municipal water. Ms. Moynihan answered questions from the Council.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Erin Stadelman, Manager of the Ouray County Fairgrounds, stated the fairgrounds is “more than capable to handle the event” and she is “totally confident”, “we can do it”.

The Town Clerk read an email dated 1-7-20 from Western Slope Rides offering to provide shuttle services, local and airport transfer services.

The Council asked Marshal Schmalz if the department had any concerns regarding the proposed event. He stated the event will “triple the population of Town” during a busy tourist time. He expressed safety concerns with the Telluride Blue Grass Festival traffic. He also questioned the proposal to have riders on county roads on the second day, noting the infrastructure is not in place to accommodate the use and number of riders. Additionally he noted concerns with moving participants in and out of the fairgrounds; and told the Council it will require hiring additional officers to assist during the event.

There was discussion between the Council and Ms. Moynihan. She noted part of the process of organizing the event is to coordinate with local jurisdictions, and bring law enforcement agencies together with the Highway Patrol, which is hired to represent the event and provide monitoring and safety. The event would bring “approximately 1100 people on site” and the “support and travel crew of 100 people” would stay in Montrose. In addition to use of the fairgrounds, the school may participate and provide “indoor camping” for “about 150 people”.

SPEAKING FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Judy Snelling explained during the 2017 event she was involved with the Chamber and “it was a massive undertaking” and “we put up \$20,000”. She noted it was “expected to be a great boom for local businesses and restaurant” and participants were too tired when they

arrived to travel away from camping areas. “No one came to the booths and the concert” in the park, and “we were really disappointed”. She suggested the Council “take a hard look” before consenting, noting “it did not do what we thought it would for the community”.

Community Initiative Facilitator Diedra Silbert reported if the Town agrees to host the event this year, there would not be “partners” to participate, noting “no one has the capacity this year” to host the event. She noted the Ride the Rockies coordinator “is not local”, and the support staff “doesn’t know the community”.

Ms. Moynihan stated she is “not opposed to finding someone locally” to oversee the event.

School Superintendent Susan Lacey asked questions regarding the request to use the school facility. There was discussion between Ms. Moynihan and Superintendent Lacey.

There was discussion by the Council regarding proximity of the school to the fairgrounds; Marshal Department staffing needs during the time period; the need for all local law enforcement agencies to meet and discuss the event; coverage of costs for additional law enforcement; positive impacts to local businesses to have the event in Town for two nights; planning over the next five months to work with agencies and individuals to ensure all items are addressed.

Consensus of the Council was if safety concerns can be addressed, the event will be a benefit for the community and businesses. The Council asked Ms. Moynihan to ensure communication flows between staff, county and the event staff; ensure there are no expectations from the Town other than those discussed; and that fairgrounds staff will assume responsibility.

9. Intergovernmental agreement with Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center for dispatch services

Town Attorney Nerlin explained in 2018 the Town moved dispatch services from Montrose County to the newly created Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center (WCRDC). At that time the WCRDC amended their intergovernmental agreement (IGA) to include law enforcement agencies within Ouray County, and to place a representative from each jurisdiction on the governing board. He presented an agreement for dispatch services in 2020 and noted he has reviewed, and agrees with, all proposed amendments to the document.

On a question from the Council Marshal Schmulz stated the arrangement is “working really well”.

ACTION:

Moved by Councilor Cheek to approve the IGA with Western Colorado Regional Dispatch Center for dispatch services. Seconded by Councilor Hunter, the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

10. Update on the 2020 Annual Election

Memo from Town Clerk dated 1-3-20 presenting information regarding the 2020 annual election.

The Clerk addressed the Council and explained the annual election will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor and three councilmember seats will become vacant. Based on vacancies which occurred in 2018, last years election had five seats open on the Council. Two of the members elected in 2019 chose to accept one year terms, and the 2020 election should return all seats to a two year term. The three council seats which will become vacant are currently held by Councilors Austin, Cheek and Hunter.

She reported a notice and call for candidates will be published and posted during the week of January 20<sup>th</sup>. The nomination period will begin on Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup> and close on Friday February 21<sup>st</sup>.

11. Miscellaneous staff updates

Town Manager Neill thanked the Council for the opportunity to work for the community, and with the Council and staff.

Planner Coburn reported on upcoming meetings pertaining to updates to the land use code.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Meyer reported at the recent Ouray County Joint Planning Board meeting the UGM boundaries were approved.

Councilmember Austin reported on the Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee and Joint Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

Councilor Hunter reported on the Creative District advisory committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk

## AGENDA ITEM #4



To: Ridgway Town Council  
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager  
Date: February 12, 2020  
Agenda Topic: **Request to Renew Agreement with Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce for Remittance of Percentage of Lodging Tax Revenue to Provide Marketing Services for the Town**

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**ACTION BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Council is asked to review and take action on the 2020 Professional Services Agreement for Ridgway Marketing and Promotions with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC). Tim Patterson, RACC President, and Hilary Lewkowitz, RACC Marketing Director, will attend Wednesday's meeting to briefly present the request and answer any questions.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

"I move to approve [with or without modifications] the 2020 Professional Services Agreement for Ridgway Marketing and Promotions with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce."

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1992, the Town's first Lodging Tax of \$1 per night per occupied room was adopted. In 2002, Ridgway voters approved changing the Lodging Tax to \$2 per night with half the revenues for tourism promotion and the other half for mitigating the effects of tourism and growth. In November 2015, the Ridgway electorate approved a ballot question changing the Town's Lodging Tax rate from \$2 per room per night to 3.5 percent per room per night. In addition, voters agreed that "up to 70% of the proceeds of the Lodging Tax be used for tourism promotion and economic development." For many years, the Town has partnered with RACC to spearhead tourism promotion, economic development, and general marketing efforts as they have the experience, expertise and mission that enable it to effectively conduct those activities.

Appended to this memorandum as Attachment 2 is a letter from RACC requesting 70% of the Lodging Tax revenues received in fiscal year 2020. The letter describes that the requested funds "will serve as the operating structure for RACC's marketing plan for the coming year." It's worth noting that RACC is requesting a bi-annual reporting structure, which differs from the quarterly reporting requirement identified in the 2019 agreement. The bi-annual reporting structure has been included in the proposed 2020 Professional Services Agreement, which is attached for Council's review and consideration. It's labeled as Attachment 1.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – Professional Services Agreement: Ridgway Marketing and Promotions

Attachment 2 – RACC 2020 Lodging Tax Budget Request



## ATTACHMENT 1

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### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT: Ridgway Marketing and Promotions

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, by and between the Town of Ridgway, State of Colorado, hereinafter referred to as "Town" and the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce, hereinafter referred to as "Contractor".

In consideration of the mutual covenants and obligations herein expressed, it is agreed by and between the parties hereto as follows:

1. **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Contractor agrees to perform services in accordance with the Scope of Consulting Services attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by this reference. Any material changes to Exhibit A and Budget shall be submitted to the Town Council in writing for approval prior to any change.

2. **TIME OF COMPLETION**

The services to be performed pursuant to this Agreement by Contractor shall be initiated upon execution of this Agreement, shall be pursued with due diligence thereafter, and shall be continued until *December 31, 2020*, unless terminated prior.

3. **PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Contractor shall be responsible for the professional quality, timely completion and coordination of all services as outlined in Exhibit A and shall without additional compensation promptly remedy and correct any errors, omissions or other deficiencies. Contractor is solely responsible for the timing, means and methods of performing the work. Contractor shall meet or exceed industry standards applicable to the services and shall provide for all training and education needed and provide all tools necessary to perform the services. Contractor shall comply with all applicable laws.

4. **RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION**

Contractor hereby waives any claims for damage to Contractor's property or injury to Contractor's person against the Town, its officers, agents and employees arising out of the performance of the services under this Agreement. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Town, and its officers and its employees, from and against all liability, claims, and demands, on account of any injury, loss, or damage, which arise out of or are connected with the Services, if such injury, loss, or damage, or any portion thereof, is caused by, or claimed to be caused by, the act, omission, or other fault of the Contractor or any subcontractor of the Contractor, or any officer, employee, or agent of the Contractor or any subcontractor, or any other person for whom Contractor is responsible. The Contractor shall investigate, handle, respond to, and provide defense for and defend against any such liability, claims, and demands, and to



## ATTACHMENT 1

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bear all other costs and expenses related thereto, including court costs and attorneys' fees. The Contractor's indemnification obligation shall not be construed to extend to any injury, loss, or damage which is caused by the act, omission, or other fault of the Town.

5. **PAYMENT**

In consideration of the proper performance of the Contractor's services, Town agrees to pay the Contractor 70% of the lodging tax revenues received in fiscal year 2020, for services as described in Exhibit A. Payment shall be made on a bi-monthly (every 2 months) basis and upon collection and receipt of lodging tax funding by the Town. Contractor is not entitled to reimbursement for supplies, materials or expenses without the prior approval of the Town Manager.

6. **TOWN REPRESENTATIVE**

The Town hereby designates its Town Manager, or her designee, as its representative and authorizes her to make all necessary and proper decisions with reference to this Agreement.

7. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

The services to be performed by the Contractor are those of an independent contractor and not as an employee of the Town. As an independent contractor, Contractor is not entitled to worker's compensation benefits except as may be provided by the independent contractor nor to unemployment insurance benefits. The Contractor is obligated to pay all federal and state income tax on any moneys paid pursuant to this Agreement.

8. **ASSIGNMENT**

This Agreement may not be assigned nor subcontracted by either party without the written consent of the other party.

9. **INSURANCE**

The Contractor agrees to procure and maintain, at its own cost, a policy or policies of insurance. The Contractor shall not be relieved of any liability, claims, demands, or other obligations assumed pursuant to the Contract Documents by reason of its failure to procure or maintain insurance, or by reason of its failure to procure or maintain insurance in sufficient amounts, duration, or types.

Contractor shall procure and maintain the minimum insurance coverages listed below, and provide proof to the Town. Such coverages shall be procured and maintained with forms and insurers acceptable to Town. All coverages shall be continuously maintained from the date of commencement of services hereunder.

- A. Worker's Compensation insurance as required by State Statute and Employer's Liability Insurance covering all of Contractor's and any subcontractor's employees acting within the course and scope of their employment. If Contractor is an individual and has no employees and claims an exemption, proof of such





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exemption shall be provided to the Town.

Contractor will maintain General Liability Insurance.

The parties hereto understand and agree that the Town is relying on, and does not waive or intend to waive by any provision of this contract, the monetary limitations (presently \$350,000 per person and \$990,000 per occurrence) or any other rights, immunities, and protections provided by the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, C.R.S. § 24-10-101 *et seq.*, as from time to time amended.

10. **BREACH AND TERMINATION**

All terms and conditions of this Agreement are considered material and failure to perform any of said conditions on be considered a breach of this Agreement. In such event, either party may notify the other of the breach, in which case there shall be a thirty day opportunity to cure the breach, except for failure to provide service which must be corrected within 3 days. If the breach is not cured the non- breaching party may have recourse to any and all remedies provided by law, including damages, specific performance, and termination of the contract.

Either party may terminate this contract by giving 60 day written notice to the other. In the event of termination of this contract, Contractor shall immediately repay to the Town any amounts not committed or expended, which it has received from the Town and shall conduct no further activities pursuant to this contract. Likewise, the Town will still reimburse Contractor for any amounts committed or expended in accordance with Exhibit A.

11. **MISCELLANEOUS**

Contractor shall comply with all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations relating to the performance of this Agreement, use of premises and public places and safety of persons and property. This contract shall be construed subject to Colorado Law.

12. **DATE**

This Agreement is dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

13. **EMPLOYMENT OF "ILLEGAL ALIENS"**

The following provisions are required by Colorado Revised Statutes §8-17.5-102, as amended. The term "illegal alien" is used as it is referenced in the above Statutes and is not a term chosen or endorsed by the Town.

- A. Contractor shall not knowingly employ or contract with an illegal alien to perform work under this Agreement.



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- B. Contractor shall not enter into a contract with a Subcontractor that fails to certify to the Contractor that the Subcontractor shall not knowingly employ or contract with an illegal alien to perform work under this Agreement.
- C. Contractor has confirmed the employment eligibility of all employees who are newly hired for employment to perform work under this agreement through participation in either (1) the e-verify program, ( the electronic employment verification program created in Public Law 104-208 as amended and expanded in Public Law 108-156, as amended, and jointly administered by the US Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration, or its successor program) or (2) the Department Program (the employment verification program established pursuant to CRS §8-17.5-102(5)(c)).
- D. Contractor is prohibited from using the e-verify program or the Department program procedures to undertake pre-employment screening of job applicants while this Agreement is being performed.
- E. If the Contractor obtains actual knowledge that a Subcontractor performing work under this Agreement knowingly employs or contracts with an illegal alien, the Contractor shall be required to: (a) notify the Subcontractor and the Town within three days that the Contractor has actual knowledge that the Subcontractor is employing or contracting with an illegal alien; and (b) terminate the subcontract with the Subcontractor if within three days of receiving the notice required pursuant to (a) of this paragraph (E), the Subcontractor does not stop employing or contracting with the illegal alien; except that the Contractor shall not terminate the contract with the Subcontractor if during such three days the Subcontractor provides information to establish that the Subcontractor has not knowingly employed or contracted with an illegal alien.
- F. Contractor shall comply with any reasonable request by the Department of Labor and Employment in the course of an investigation that the Department is undertaking pursuant to CRS §8-17.5-102(5).
- G. If Contractor violates these illegal alien provisions, the Town may terminate this Agreement for a breach of contract. If this Agreement is so terminated, Contractor shall be liable for actual and consequential damages to the Town. The Town will notify the Office of the Secretary of State if Contractor violates these provisions and the Town terminates this Agreement for that reason.
- H. Contractor shall notify the Town of participation in the Department program and shall within 20 days after hiring an employee who is newly hired for employment to perform work under this Agreement affirm that the contractor has examined the legal work status of such employee, retained file copies of the documents required by 8 USC §1324a and not altered or falsified the identification



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documents for such employee. Contractor shall provide a written, notarized copy of the affirmation to the Town.

14. **APPROPRIATION REQUIRED**

This Agreement shall NOT be construed to constitute a debt of the Town beyond any current fiscal year and shall be subject to the availability of an annual appropriation therefore by the Town.

**TOWN OF RIDGWAY**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
*John Clark, Mayor*

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

**CONTRACTOR: *Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce***

By \_\_\_\_\_  
*Tim Patterson, President*



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### CRS 8-17.5-102 Certification

Name of Project: **Ridgway Marketing and Promotions**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pursuant to CRS 8-17.5-102(1) the undersigned hereby certifies that at this date it does not knowingly employ or contract with an illegal alien who will perform work under the contract for the above referenced project and that the Contractor will participate in the E-Verify Program or the Department Program in order to confirm the employment eligibility of all employees who are newly hired for work under the contract for the above referenced project.

**CONTRACTOR: Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Patterson, President



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### EXHIBIT A: Scope of Services

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Ridgway Town Council (“Town”) has levied a Lodging Tax upon the business of furnishing rooms or accommodations for consideration in a hotel, motel, apartment hotel, lodging house, motor hotel, guest house, or other similar lodging businesses in the amount of 3.5% of the entire amount charged for furnishing the room or accommodations, and

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 01-2016 states that seventy per cent of the net lodging tax revenues received by the Town shall be used for tourism promotion and economic development purposes, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has determined that the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) has the experience, expertise and mission to enable it to effectively conduct activities related to the above referenced purposes pursuant to this Contract with the Town, and the Chamber has presented to the Town Council with a summary of detailed expenditures for the prior year and planned budget and expenditures for the current year that are acceptable to the Town, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chamber intends to operate a Visitor’s Center within the Town of Ridgway for the purpose of welcoming visitors and tourists and providing information and resources to the public for the benefit of all local businesses, residents and the Ridgway area, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chamber agrees to submit bi-annual reports to the Town describing its activities during the prior six (6) months. The first report shall be submitted by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July. The report shall include itemized expenditures of Lodging Tax funds for the first half of the year, and at the end of the year the Chamber will provide an itemized year-end financial report of all Lodging Tax expenditures, and prior to December 1, 2020 the Chamber will provide a Lodging Tax Report listing the accomplishments of that year and may request a new contract for Lodging Tax funding for the next year that would include a budget and marketing plan for the upcoming year for consideration by the Town, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town may request, at the expense of the Chamber, a formal financial review and an official audit, by an independent outside auditor, of all finances related to public dollars, and the Chamber shall provide any financial documentation requested by the Town pertaining to Lodging Tax funds, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town and Chamber agree that a designated Town Council/Chamber Board liaison will be important to ensuring beneficial communication, feedback and support for both the Town and Chamber in the administration of this Contract and expenditure of public funds, and both entities will work together to support this liaison in their efforts, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town and Chamber desire to work cooperatively with each other, and other community entities and organizations, to develop economic development strategies that benefit



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the community and Ridgway area, and the Chamber is committed to supporting the Town's efforts in economic development, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chamber desires and agrees to market and promote the community and economic development initiatives of the Town in 2020, including but not limited to: Love Your Valley Festival, Ridgway Concert Series and the Space to Create project, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town recently updated the Town's Master Plan and the Chamber was an active participant in that process in 2018 and 2019, and both parties desire to work together and commence implementation items related to marketing services as a result of the plan update, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town's 2011 Land Use Plan includes a Goal 5: Economy, with associated policies and action items:

Goal 5: Encourage and facilitate a vibrant, diverse and sustainable local economy that reflects Ridgway's social fabric, values, and character.

Employ symbiotic regional partnerships for economic development;

Work to positively engage the Ridgway Area of Chamber of Commerce in local government conversations, meetings and workshops relative to economic development and infrastructure needs, including progressive investment in the downtown historic business district and incorporating concepts defined in the Strategic Plans for both entities.

Actively engage and participate in regional economic develop efforts such as the Strategic Economies Together effort facilitated by Region 10 and the sub-committees formed pursuant to the Ouray County "Bottom Up" Initiative, including : Economic Diversity, Community Branding, Creative District Designation, Expanding Recreational Tourism, and Broadband Initiatives.

Collaborate with Ouray County, the City of Ouray, the Chambers of Commerce, Region 10 and other appropriate development agencies on comprehensive Economic Development addressing broad issues associated with economic growth and land use in the Ridgway area.

**Whereas**, the parties shall strive to provide each other with timely notification via email of all meetings, events, projects and collaborations on which the parties have mutually agreed to participate on, with notices sent to:

Ridgway Town Hall  
PO Box 10; Ridgway, Colorado 81432  
[pneill@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:pneill@town.ridgway.co.us)

Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce  
150 Racecourse Road; Ridgway, CO 81432  
[raccadmin@ridgwaycolorado.com](mailto:raccadmin@ridgwaycolorado.com)

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Town and Chamber agree to the preceding Scope of Services for this contract.

## ATTACHMENT 2

To: Town of Ridgway  
From: Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce  
Subject: 2020 Lodging Tax Budget Request  
Date: Thursday, January 23rd, 2020

Dear Ridgway Town Council,

The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to present the following 2020 Lodging Tax Budget request. A year-end Lodging Tax P&L statement has been provided with this narrative, which reflects final 2019 Lodging Tax (LT) expenditures. The [2019 Annual Report](#) provides the narrative of our 2019 activities.

We are sharing an overall 2019 Lodging Tax Budget of \$71,516. This reflects a conservative Lodging Tax projection of \$60,000, combined with a surplus fund balance of \$11,516. The importance and structural factors that lead to annual surpluses were noted in the 2019 and 2018 year-end reports. A conservative projection helps protect projected budgets for both marketing related staff/contractor needs, as well as account for any unseen events that may hinder visitation (which may diminish our projected income).

The 2020 budget request will serve as the operating structure for RACC's marketing plan for the coming year. It is designed to ensure that our organizational and community goals are met and that Lodging Tax funds are leveraged to their maximum potential. The execution of this budget and marketing plan will be led by the Chamber Marketing Director, staff and consultants, with support and oversight from the RACC Board of Directors, as well as continued input from local business and partners, including the Town of Ridgway.

As the Chamber continues to evolve its marketing strategies on how best to distribute funds received from LOT on a year to year basis, one inherent challenge is the majority of funds are received within the third and fourth quarters annually. The accrual and subsequent payout of these funds are therefore delayed and do not typically coincide with ideal times in which to leverage marketing opportunities (e.g., Spring), thus making it a difficult task to effectively spend distributed dollars within the given calendar year. To this end, we respectfully request consideration by Town Council to authorize a multi-year contract; which in turn would allow for a more strategic outlook to our overall marketing strategy, as well as designate reserve funds for larger ticket marketing items and projections over time. In addition, we would like to request a bi-annual reporting structure, vs. the quarterly reporting structure that we adhered to in 2019. With a small budget, the Chamber does not have big items to report on a quarterly basis. Our time would be better served by producing the year-end annual report and a report midway through the year.

We are proud of the progress made in 2019, highlighted in our 2019 Annual Report, and look forward to 2020 being another major step forward. We thank you for your partnership in supporting the Ridgway Chamber and our local business community.

Sincerely,

Tim Patterson  
President, Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce



Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce  
150 Racecourse Road  
PO BOX 544 Ridgway, CO 81432  
1-800-220-4959 970-626-5181  
[racc@RidgwayColorado.com](mailto:racc@RidgwayColorado.com) [RidgwayColorado.com](http://RidgwayColorado.com)

## ATTACHMENT 2

### **2020 Lodging Tax Budget**

**Projected Available Lodging Tax Funds in 2020 = \$71,516** (\$60,000 in projected 2020 LT funds combined with \$11,516 in surplus LT funding from 2019)

This is the summary of the budget request and categories. A more detailed narrative on each category can be found below:

Print Media and Advertising*	\$	2,760
Online Media and Advertising, including Social Media*	\$	4,206
Visitor Center Operations & Upgrades	\$	5,800
Website Upgrades and Operations	\$	9,000
Visitors Guide Fulfillment, Publishing and Content	\$	6,000
Marketing Collaboration and Networking	\$	1,000
Staff	\$	26,800
Colorado Creative Corridor	\$	2,700
CTO off-season marketing match (including online ads)*	\$	1,250
Visitor Center Redesign	\$	4,000
Reserve	\$	8,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$71,516</b>

*\*In addition to \$10,000 in funding from CTO for off-peak season marketing and advertising*

*\*In addition to \$25,000 in funding from the CTO for the Colorado Creative Corridor (shared with 4 other communities)*



## ATTACHMENT 2

### **2020 Lodging Tax Budget Narrative**

#### **Print Media and Advertising (\$2,760)**

We are shifting our focus away from traditional print advertising, but we will continue some advertising with regional and/or state tourism outlets. Our limited budget requires us to be discerning with our advertising, however some of the publications we will consider:

- San Juan Skyway Magazine
- West of 105
- Colorado Life Magazine

Our goal is to continue to invest evenly across the five themes, which are meant to capture the various assets, activities and attractions that bring visitors to Ridgway:

- Arts & Entertainment
- Health & Wellness
- Outdoor Adventure
- Culinary Experiences
- History & Heritage

We aim to increase regional awareness of Ridgway businesses through local news outlets. Budget will be used to continue to get articles placed in local news outlets, including: Ouray County Plaindealer, Montrose Mirror and The Watch.

In 2019, we successfully received a second consecutive \$10,000 CTO grant to improve countywide off-peak season economic opportunities. This grant is a partnership with the OTO, which we plan to use grant funds in 2020.

#### **Online Media and Advertising, including social media (\$4,206)**

RACC will continue to devote attention to online marketing and social media platforms that can enable us to more effectively reach a targeted audience. The \$10,000 CTO Marketing Match grant significantly increased our marketing budget. Through this grant, we will have a sponsored article, new itineraries, Instagram Takeover on Visit Colorado, plus advertising on Colorado.com. In addition, we will utilize the Colorado.com in-state email list to create two custom email campaigns for January and February. The email list consists of 29,000 contacts with a majority living on the Front Range, which is a high priority target market for winter recreation. All grant related activities are in partnership with OTO and focus on our off-peak season tourism opportunities.

We continue to focus attention on growing our social media platforms, which include Instagram and Facebook. Instagram is positioned as a visitor-facing platform by using high quality images across all five marketing themes. We have successfully grown our following from 465 followers last February to 1,491 to-date. Facebook is steadily growing from 1,530 followers to 1,943 in the past year. We will continue to support local events, businesses and tourism-related opportunities on this platform.

Last November, we launched a quarterly visitor-focused e-newsletter with our leads from GoColorado.com plus new email lead capturing features on the website. The new e-newsletter will allow us to better control content that goes to potential visitors, with an emphasis on our 5 marketing themes and off-peak season assets. Also, this allows our current weekly e-newsletter to be community focused, while dedicating the quarterly e-newsletter to visitor opportunities. We plan to continue the quarterly visitor newsletter in 2020. For this year, we will focus our lead generation program through RidgwayColorado.com.

## ATTACHMENT 2

### **Visitors Center Operations (\$5,800)**

With approximately 4,000 visitors each year, the Visitor Center is a critical resource for presenting our community and highlighting local businesses and nonprofits. This is the basic operations funding necessary to run the Visitor Center from May through October and support our volunteer staff. This includes expenses from Middleton Accounting to manage Visitor Center transactions and operational expenses. A clear picture of the Visitor Center expenses can be found in the P&L.

### **Website Upgrades and Operations (\$9,000)**

RidgwayColorado.com continues to perform well and has seen significant growth since 2017. Please see the 2019 Annual Report for detailed analytics of this improved performance and visitation. As noted before, we see the RidgwayColorado.com site as a foundational asset that requires constant investment and improvement. It is essential to ensure continual content creation, and improve functionality and user experience. For 2020, we will dedicate a significant portion of our budget to improving content, functionality, business exposure and the user experience. Website investments will include: new and revised content that aligns with high performing keywords and SEO, website reorganization to increase usability, increase visibility of local businesses, and increased access for members to edit their content. This budget category also includes our normal website and technology operations support, including site and email server support from our technology partner Peak Media.

### **Visitors Guide Fulfillment, Publishing and Content (\$6,000)**

We just released the 2020 version of the combined Visitor Guide with OTO. The plan is to continue the partnership with OTO as it provides a comprehensive and complimentary guide of countywide assets. This budget category includes content creation and editing, as well as fulfillment expense. Cost includes distribution of approximately 100,000 guides across the state and beyond.

### **Marketing Collaboration and Networking (\$1,000)**

This budget category will be for select conferences and events that support improved regional collaboration as well as for staff professional development and training. For 2020, we want to send our Marketing Director, Hilary Lewkowitz, to the Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference.

### **Staff (\$26,800)**

This reflects a similar amount for our 2019 budget request, which was \$29,500. Our Board is thrilled to have Hilary Lewkowitz in a lead staff role as our Marketing and Membership Director. Hilary will oversee the execution of our marketing plan, budget, contractors and related projects. We welcome Jeanne Robertson as the new Visitor Services and Membership Coordinator. Jeanne will oversee operations at the Visitor Center, which includes managing the volunteer staff and primary contact for visitor questions. She will also work to build relationships with our business community and be the sounding board for local business needs.

Our broader staffing strategy is focused on using as much local expertise as possible and the RACC has developed a wonderful group of staff and consultants to help advance our mission. Our exceptional group of local consulting partners and staff includes:

- *Marketing and Membership Director* – Hilary Lewkowitz
- *Visitor Services and Membership Coordinator* - Jeanne Robertson
- *Online Content and Storytelling Consultant* – Tanya Ishikawa
- *Accounting Firm* – Middleton Accounting
- *Website and Technology Partner* -- Peak Media (Josh Gowans)
- *Media and Design Partner* – Sprout Design Studio (Nicole Green)

## ATTACHMENT 2

Our staffing goal for 2020 and beyond is to transition the Chamber to an organization that is staff-led and board-advised. Increased staff capacity will enable the organization to successfully achieve its marketing plan and bring increased value to the local business community. Ultimately, all of the projects and budget categories above will only be successful with sufficient professional time and attention.

We also believe this is an issue of the proper stewardship of public funds. RACC's growing Lodging Tax receipts should be managed by paid professional staff whose career and profession is dependent on proper and effective management of that funding. It should not be executed upon by a volunteer board. The board is in place to oversee the management of that staff and funding but not to execute on the implementation of the programming. This is the most appropriate structure for an effective organization, and it will also require the appropriate budget allocation to deliver on this marketing plan.

A stronger component within the budget will also allow the organization to more successfully manage staff transitions in the future, with the overarching goal to limit staff turnover.

### **Colorado Creative Corridor (\$2,700)**

In 2018 and 2019, Ridgway partnered with four other Colorado communities in the establishment of the "Colorado Creative Corridor." This project is continuing in 2020, with another \$25,000 grant from the Colorado Tourism Office. RACC will provide \$2,500 in match funding for this effort, and the Town of Ridgway will also provide \$2,500. The partners are: Tourism Council of Carbondale; Carbondale Creative District; Salida Creative District; Chaffee County Visitors Bureau; Crested Butte Creative District; Gunnison-Crested Butte Tourism Association; Delta County Tourism Council; North Fork Creative Coalition; Ridgway Creative District; and the Ridgway Chamber. In addition to the \$2,500 match, we are setting aside a nominal amount of funds to utilize local contractors for content creation.

2020 grant funding will continue on the success of this past year, which saw the following results: print brochure (with Ridgway itinerary) distributed throughout the state, print advertisement, earned media, plus Creative Corridor Colorado.com brand channel and social media platforms.

### **CTO Off-Peak Season Marketing Grant (\$1,250)**

For the second consecutive year, the Chamber was awarded a \$10,000 Colorado Tourism Office grant to continue promoting off-peak season, tourism-driven economic opportunities during 2020. As mentioned above, we are continuing our partnership with the Ouray Tourism Office and splitting the grant match evenly, \$1,250 match by OTO and \$1,250 match by the RACC. This grant greatly increases our digital marketing budget. See above for grant implementation details.

### **Visitor Center Redesign Project \$4,000**

In 2019, we received a \$15,000 grant (with a \$3,650 match) to reimagine and redesign the Visitor Center and Heritage Park. In partnership with the Town of Ridgway, the result was the Ridgway Visitor Center and Heritage Park Master Plan that was approved last July by Town Council. The Master Plan details a phased approach to revamping this key gateway for our community and surrounding region. One of the first steps is to install temporary signage on the southside of the Visitor Center. For 2020, the RACC set aside budget to create content, design and install the signage. As detailed in the Master Plan, the temporary signage will be five signs based on the RACC's five marketing themes. The goal of the signage is to connect visitors to our tourism assets and local businesses even when the Visitor Center is closed (October through May). The completion of this project is crucial as we are expecting the Ridgway Railroad Museum to vacate the Visitor Center building by the end of this year. The signage project is an exciting first step towards achieving our long-term goals of reimaging our gateway area.

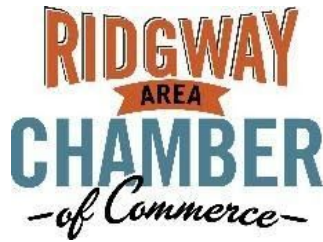
## ATTACHMENT 2

### **2020 Reserve (\$8,000)**

As has been discussed, the first six months of the calendar year bring limited LT funding, while at the same time represent the largest months for expenditures. It is critical to aim for a healthy reserve for 2020. This target of \$8,000 is lower than what we would ultimately like to achieve, however we have budgeted conservatively off of 2019's Lodging Tax receipts and assume that 2020 will look similar to last year.

We look forward to having in place on average monthly meetings between Chamber and Town staff in 2020, and continuing to build upon the organizational progress that was achieved in 2019.

***We thank the Town Council and staff for their partnership in this important work on behalf of our local business community.***



## AGENDA ITEM #5



To: Ridgway Town Council  
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager  
Date: February 12, 2020  
RE: **Presentation from Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership regarding Annual Report, Watershed Guide and River Watch Program**

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**SUMMARY:**

Tanya Ishikawa with the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) will attend Wednesday's meeting to present on the UWP Annual Report, the UWP Watershed Guide and their River Watch Program. Attached to this memo as Attachment 1 is a document compiled by UWP that reviews the Uncompahgre River Watershed in Ouray County. Also included is their UWP 2019 Annual Report, labeled as Attachment 2, and their River Watch Program Presentation, labeled as Attachment 3.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – The Uncompahgre River Watershed in Ouray County

Attachment 2 – UWP 2019 Annual Report

Attachment 3 – River Watch Program Presentation



# THE UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER WATERSHED IN OURAY COUNTY

## THE BASICS & A LITTLE BIT MORE

ATTACHMENT 1

Compiled by the

### **UNCOMPAHGRE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP**

UWP exists to help protect and improve the economic, natural, and scenic values of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed. We work to inform and engage all stakeholders and solicit input from diverse interests to ensure collaborative restoration efforts in the watershed.



## From a Trickle to a Mighty Flow, Water from the San Juan Mountains Heads toward the Pacific Ocean

**wa • ter • shed: (noun) /'wôdər SHed'/** an area that collects surface water from rain, snowmelt, and underlying groundwater, that flows to lower elevations. Watersheds can be defined at any scale from less than an acre to millions of square miles.  
Synonyms: drainage, catchment, basin.

For eons, the Upper Uncompahgre Watershed has been a valuable resource for wildlife and people. Uncompahgre loosely translates to “the warm, red water” in the language of the Ute people, who were the early stewards of the river. In the last few centuries, explorers and settlers developed the watershed’s assets. From booming mining days to quieter years after the silver crash and today when tourism is one of the area’s biggest draws, residents and visitors have used local waters in many ways.

Like the edges of a big bowl, high mountains cradle Ouray and Ridgway, creating the Upper Uncompahgre Watershed. The Uncompahgre River flows from Lake Como at 12,200 feet, where tributaries, seeps, springs, and groundwater collect in a deep depression formed by glaciers in a high alpine valley of the San Juan Mountains.

From Lake Como to Ouray, the Uncompahgre River flows roughly seven miles north-northwest at a steep gradient through rugged terrain and deep canyons. Snowmelt and rain join the river throughout the watershed but the majority comes from the highest elevations of the San Juans, Sneffels Wilderness, Dallas Divide, Cimarron Range, and Uncompahgre Plateau.

Seasonal creeks and perennial streams collect and carry water into the Unc, as the river is called by many locals. Some water trickles through soils and into the underlying sediment deposits and rock,

becoming groundwater. Groundwater usually flows parallel to the surface of the land, supporting springs, wetlands, and stream flows during late summer, fall, and winter.

From the mountaintops to the confluence with the Gunnison River, the Uncompahgre River Watershed covers portions of six counties in addition to Ouray County – over a 1,115-square-mile area – and is part of the Upper Colorado River Basin. The Unc flows north through Ouray and Ridgway, then into Ridgway Reservoir. The river continues north through Colona, Montrose, and Olathe, joining the Gunnison River in Delta.

Flowing through Dominguez Canyon, the Gunnison joins the Colorado River as its largest tributary in Grand Junction. Headwaters that begin in Ouray County continue to combine with water from other drainages as the flow grows through Utah, Arizona, and California on the way to the Pacific Ocean. However, due to population growth, increased usage, drought, and climate change, our water usually doesn’t make it to the Gulf of California. Due to monumental water management challenges facing Western states, UWP and local organizations are working with others throughout the state to ensure the precious water resources that originate high in our mountains are available to all water users for generations to come.

*Crystal Lake with oxeye daisy on the bottom edge.  
Noxious weeds are just one of many threats to watershed health.  
Front cover: Lake Como*



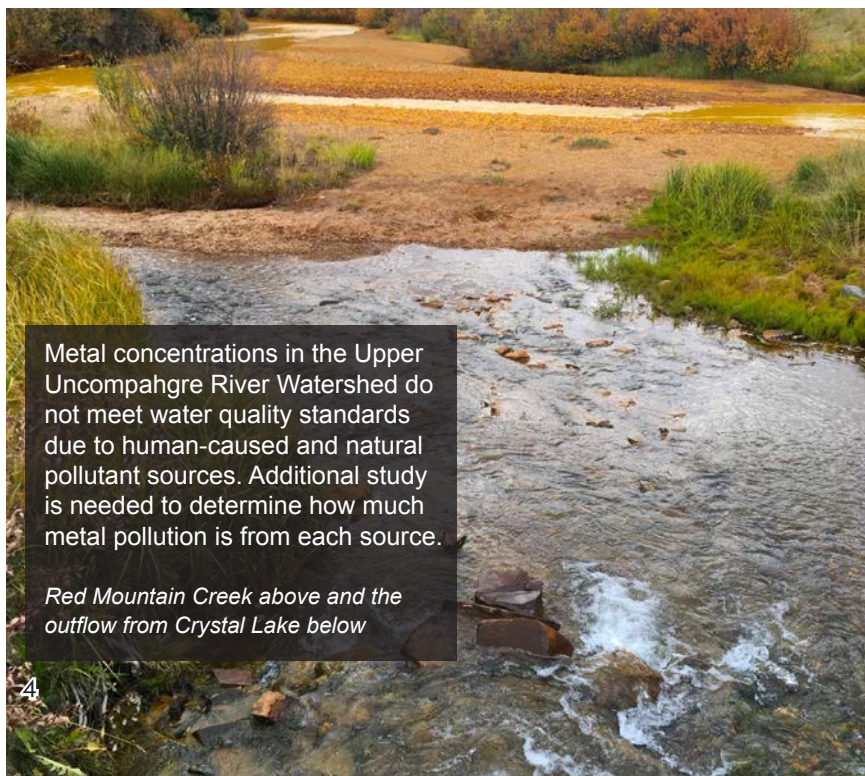
## The Impact of Geology on Water

The San Juan Mountains were formed by volcanic activity millions of years ago. Part of the watershed includes the Silverton Caldera and its many rich orebodies including gold, silver, lead, and copper deposits. The natural mineralization and historic mining in the watershed contribute varying concentrations of metals to many water sources.

Glaciers sculpted the landscape further, creating U-shaped valleys in the upper watershed and depositing unconsolidated sand and gravel from igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rock formations on the valley floors. Mancos shale is found throughout the lower part of the watershed. Where excess irrigation occurs, the shale can deliver selenium and salts to local waterbodies.

## The Reasons behind our Colorful Water

The Uncompahgre River and its tributaries range in color from crystal clear to green, grey, brown, orange, and red. Water enters the various tributaries of the Unc via overland flow that picks up sediments from bare soil and roadways. Sediments are also picked up as water runs across unremediated mine waste and natural rocky outcrops. Acid rock drainage releases acidity and metals that influence water color. Vegetation filters some sediments.



Metal concentrations in the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed do not meet water quality standards due to human-caused and natural pollutant sources. Additional study is needed to determine how much metal pollution is from each source.

Red Mountain Creek above and the outflow from Crystal Lake below



ATTACHMENT 1  
Uncompahgre River in Ridgway

## Factors that Contribute to the Water's Color

- **Sediment suspension** During spring runoff and following large precipitation events, increased water velocities suspend soil, sediment, and organic particles. Suspended sediment creates colors similar to the geology in that area of the watershed.
- **Dissolution and weathering** Pure water is composed of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom. The atoms carry a subtle charge that allows water to act as a solvent. As a result, water naturally accrues minerals, salts, and other compounds as it flows across landscapes and through rock as groundwater. Our watershed's abundance of mineral deposits and hot springs speed up weathering and provide ample opportunity for mineral dissolution, which often colors the water and alters the chemistry.
- **Historic abandoned mines** The remains of mines and the associated waste rock and tailings can increase sediment suspension, dissolution, and weathering. This process, called acid rock drainage, increases the intensity of several water colors, particularly red, orange, and white.
- **Hot springs** The City of Ouray and local businesses manage hot springs, which are a natural source of minerals and salts capable of altering water color. These commercial uses alter natural processes and may improve water color and clarity through active and passive treatment, and by decreasing temperatures before returning water to the Uncompahgre River.
- **Irrigation** Irrigation diversions from less colorful tributaries north of Ouray reduce the volume of clear water that would otherwise dilute the color and metal concentrations in the Uncompahgre River. On the other hand, irrigation can also act as a filter to improve water quality.
- **Ridgway Reservoir** Water storage in the reservoir substantially improves water color and clarity due to settling, dilution, and changes in chemistry.

## Water Quality in the Upper Uncompahgre Watershed

The amount of cadmium, copper, lead, silver, zinc, and pH (acidity) in several streams in the Upper Uncompahgre Watershed do not meet standards used to protect aquatic life. Fish, macroinvertebrates, and other aquatic species are often more sensitive to metals than humans because these species spend most of their lives in or near water, including during very sensitive early stages of life. As a result, aquatic-life standards often are more stringent and more protective than human-health standards.

Several streams in the watershed exceed the water supply standard for manganese. This standard is a secondary standard used to protect water aesthetics like color, taste, and odor. It is not a human-health standard.

*Information on how specific parts of the Uncompahgre River and its tributaries measure up to water quality standards is available at [www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links).*

### A Primer on Water Quality Standards

In Colorado, state and federal agencies collaborate to implement the Clean Water Act. Water quality standards are a critical component of pollution control. The following factors are considered when developing water quality standards for any pollutant:

- toxicity and risks affiliated with the pollutant;
- water uses such as agriculture, aquatic life, recreation, and water supply;
- protective level of exposure for each water use; and
- the amount of pollutant present when toxic effects occur.

Chronic toxicity occurs over time and affects organism survival, reproduction, and growth. Acute toxicity refers to a lethal dose in sensitive species or portions of the population (e.g. larvae).

The process to develop water quality standards is complex and evolves as we learn more about biology, toxicology, and techniques used to detect pollutants. Because of the need to protect all water uses, the water use that is most sensitive to a given pollutant is the effective standard for that pollutant. This practice assures that all water uses are protected when the standard for the most sensitive water use is met.

*This is a cursory introduction to the Clean Water Act and water quality standards in Colorado. Additional resources are available at the link referenced above this box.*

## ATTACHMENT 1 Standards for Common Water Uses in Ouray County



**Agriculture standards** protect livestock and crops. Sensitive life stages include pregnancy, lactation, and juvenile animals.



**Aquatic life standards** protect fish, macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects and invertebrates like worms), and riparian birds.



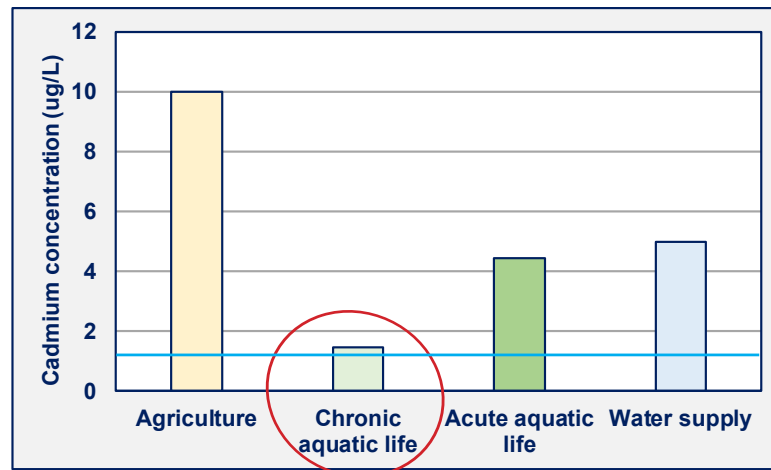
**Recreation standards** protect recreational users that may ingest small amounts of water while swimming, kayaking, etc. Recreational use is the effective standard for E. coli.



**Water supply standards** protect raw drinking water supplies. These standards often include two parts: protecting human health and identifying the maximum contaminate level (MCL). MCL is the legal limit on the amount of a substance allowed in a public water supply. The Safe Drinking Water Act regulates public drinking water supplies.

### Cadmium Standards in the Uncompahgre River near Ouray

The chart below shows cadmium standards for water uses (the colored bars) and cadmium concentrations (the blue line) in the Uncompahgre River near Ouray at River Watch station 3586. The standard to protect aquatic life from chronic toxicity (light green bar) is the most sensitive water use. Because cadmium concentrations are less than the chronic aquatic life standard, all water uses are protected. This chart demonstrates how standards work. Similar charts for each pollutant for each stream and river segment in the watershed would not fit into this short booklet. The link on the previous page provides access to additional data.





## The Uncompahgre River Watershed in Ouray County

- Ouray County
  - Uncompahgre River
  - Major tributary streams & creeks
  - Highways
  - Hot springs\*
  - Waterfalls near the Uncompahgre River
  - Ouray Ice Park
  - Ouray Hydrodam
- \*location of natural flow, not businesses*



Map not  
to scale

### Mines & Water Quality

Hundreds of historic abandoned mine sites and a handful of active mines are scattered around the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed. Water flowing through the mine sites can become contaminated with metals. Active mines are required by law to mitigate their activities' impact on water quality. In most cases, restoration at abandoned mines only occurs when an interested party obtains funding and takes on the responsibility. Below are descriptions of recent restoration projects; their locations are indicated by stars on the map.

- ★ **Governor Basin\*\*** In the coming years, UWP and partners will cap and cover waste rock, and redirect water flows to prevent contamination and restore conditions in downstream waters.
- ★ **Atlas Mill Site\*\*** The banks of Sneffels Creek were reshaped to prevent erosion of mine waste, enhance stream stability, and encourage riparian plant growth. Additional work is planned in the coming years.
- ★ **Michael Breen Mine Site\*\*** Water flowing from the adit was redirected to avoid a historic loadout structure and down-gradient mine waste piles. The loadout structure was also stabilized.
- ★ **Vernon Mine Site\*\*** Water flowing from the adit was redirected to avoid contamination. Waste rock was moved to an upland repository and vegetation was established at the site.
- ★ **Idarado** In July 1992, the state of Colorado and Idarado Mining Co. negotiated a settlement in federal court, mandating multiple clean-up projects, establishing a fund for additional restoration projects, and identifying water quality benchmarks for several metals. Information about the Idarado settlement is available at the web address listed on [www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links).

*\*\*Project led by UWP, with support from partners.*



Additional information available at:  
[www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links)

## ANSWERS TO SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What are the main uses of water in our watershed?

Irrigation for farming and ranching uses the most water by far. Homes and other buildings use the next largest amount for drinking, washing, toilets, and other domestic activities. Other water users include hard-rock mines, as well as sand, gravel, and aggregate mining from the river. Recreation and tourism activities are also popular water uses.

### Who owns the water?

Land in the watershed is owned by multiple stakeholders including federal, state, and private landowners. Water rights are conveyed independently from land ownership. To use water in Colorado, you must own a water right (or have permission through a right holder) and that right must be in priority.

The Prior Appropriation Doctrine, a key component of Colorado water law, defines water use practices in Colorado. The Colorado Division of Water Resources administers water rights. To learn more about water rights and law, refer to the “Citizen’s Guide to Colorado Water Law”, which can be found at the website address listed on [www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links).

### Where do farmers and ranchers get their water from?

Agricultural users divert water from the Uncompahgre River as well as Cow Creek, Coal Creek, Dallas Creek, and other smaller creeks to support cattle operations and to grow crops, primarily pasture grass-hay. Most often water is delivered via unlined earthen ditches, maintained by water users, to flood irrigate fields.

### What is the reservoir used for?

Ridgway Reservoir, constructed in 1987, is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and operated by the Tri-County Water Conservancy District. In 2014, a hydroelectric facility was installed. The reservoir provides water to downstream agricultural users, and is used to mitigate flooding. Reservoir water levels are based on water releases to satisfy demands from senior downstream water users, power generation, and flood reduction. Dam releases also impact the health of the fishery below the dam and downstream fish populations.

### Can we drink water from the river?

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) recommends that people do not drink untreated water. Due to the risk of pathogens, like E. coli, giardia, and cryptosporidium, it is never wise to drink untreated water from an unknown spring, seep, or stream.

Metals, which pose an additional health risk, have been found in streams and the Uncompahgre River by volunteer groups and other agencies, who collect samples to characterize water quality. Metal concentrations in some areas of the watershed occasionally exceed human-health and water-supply criteria.

### Where does local drinking water come from?

Depending on where you live, drinking water comes from a well, a provider like Dallas Creek Water Company, Tri-County Water Conservancy District, and Project Seven Water Authority, or from municipal systems that rely on springs, groundwater aquifers, and surface-water reservoirs. Municipal water providers in Ouray County do not use the Uncompahgre River as a raw water supply, though infiltration from the river may affect the groundwater quality and some nearby wells.

### How does the reservoir change the water quality?

Over time, gravity allows metals and sediment to settle on the bottom of the reservoir. These conditions reduce suspended metal concentrations and substantially improve water quality.

### Can we float the river?

Much of the Uncompahgre River from Ouray to Ridgway has no public access because it is on private land. The public can access the river at Rollans Park, Dennis Weaver Memorial Park, and Ridgway State Park.

Trespass in Colorado’s waterways is a contentious issue and an area of unsettled law. Generally, recreational use is permitted when a floating craft can pass through the river without contacting the privately-owned river bottom or adjacent land surfaces. Kayaking, floating, and paddling the Uncompahgre River is possible in several locations. People should use their judgment as to whether their skills and river conditions allow them to float safely and without trespass.

### Is it safe to play in the Uncompahgre River?

Although metal concentrations are elevated, water quality on most days supports recreational uses like swimming, wading, and floating. Contact with water is not recommended when it is more yellow or orange than usual. The CDPHE recommends washing hands, faces, and bodies thoroughly after contact with untreated water.

### Why are there no fish in some areas of the watershed?

The elevated metal concentrations in some portions of the Unc and some of its tributaries don't allow aquatic life to survive, so the fish and macroinvertebrate populations are reduced in many river segments and streams above Ridgway Reservoir. The Dallas Divide side of the watershed has different geology and a lack of mines, so the impact of metals on those streams is much less.

In addition to elevated metal concentrations, the Uncompahgre River between Ouray and Ridgway Reservoir is impacted by water diversions, habitat degradation (e.g. removal of riparian vegetation for pasture, homes, etc.), and channel alterations (e.g. water diversion structures and bridges). As a result, some aquatic species such as trout are limited in the river between Ouray and the reservoir. In late fall, a small population of Kokanee salmon uses the river between Ridgway and the reservoir.

### Is there fishing anywhere in the watershed?

Yes, though fish are limited in many areas, excellent fishing can be found at Ridgway Reservoir, the Uncompahgre River downstream of the dam, larger tributaries like Cow Creek, and a few high alpine streams and lakes.

The reservoir is home to brown and rainbow trout, Kokanee salmon, bass, and yellow perch. Pa-Co-Chu-Puk, a section of the river below the dam, is managed as a fishery by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and is a world-class, catch-and-release fly-fishing area. Links to current fishing regulations and fish consumption advisories are available at [www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links).

### How do wildlife and livestock interact with the watershed?

Animals get much of their water from the food they eat (i.e. plants, berries, animal prey, etc.). Wetlands and riparian areas provide habitat for more than 75% of Colorado's wildlife. Keeping the river corridor healthy from top to bottom is critical to animals and plants, especially for several rare or endangered species that live in the Upper Uncompahgre Watershed.

Animals, domestic and wild, can affect water quality. Overgrazing by livestock can create soil compaction that increases runoff and adds more sediment to waterways, but can be avoided with careful livestock management.

### Does water quality impact the trees and plants?

In some portions of the watershed, contamination from mine waste or naturally acidic areas preclude plant growth. Other threats to native flora include invasive plant species, like noxious weeds, that compete for scarce water and nutrients. Beetles and other forest pathogens have become more problematic due to both fire suppression, increased temperatures (particularly in winter), and decreased precipitation and water supply attributed to climate change. As a result, large swaths of dead or diseased forests pose a substantial fire risk. Following a large-scale fire, landscapes lack the ability to store water, and are prone to widespread erosion, which can impact water quality.

### What does the future hold for our watershed?

While human activity and climatic events have created current watershed conditions – some positive and some negative – we have the opportunity today to ensure each decision made individually and as a community protects and restores water quality and supply. We can also do our best to estimate, prepare for, and prevent future unwanted impacts to the watershed. Changing climate patterns, variable annual precipitation and snowpack, flood risks and erosion, and mining and mining reclamation efforts all have the potential to alter the watershed. Sustainable water management practices, careful development in riparian areas, and a long-term focus on protecting this special resource will ensure that many generations will enjoy the economic, natural, and scenic benefits of our watershed for decades to come.



## Ways to Get Involved in Protecting our Watershed

- Conserve water in your daily activities by using low-flow appliances and fixtures, and turning off running water whenever not in use. Find more tips here: [www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/ar-wc-tips](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/ar-wc-tips)
- Avoid putting fertilizers, waste, and other pollutants in areas where they will end up in rivers and other water sources.
- Know the quality of the water sources that you use for drinking, recreation, and other activities, so you can protect your health.
- Volunteer at events that focus on improving riparian areas such as the Rollans Park Cleanup in Ridgway and Love Your Gorge day in Ouray.
- Practice the seven principles of Leave No Trace, described here: <https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/>
- Participate in local trail maintenance groups to address erosion control.
- Support efforts for drought preparedness and water storage in your community.
- Go to public meetings about water use and advocate for wetlands and riparian health, recreation opportunities, smart water management, and responsible wastewater and stormwater operations.

Sneffels Creek; Back cover: Uncompahgre River

## Online Resources

To get more information about watershed conditions, plans for management and restoration, water quality maps, drought, drinking water, recreation, water law, climate impacts, the Colorado Water Plan, and more, please visit [www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/links).



### Published by the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP)

This publication was made possible through the collaboration of partners throughout the community, and funded by the Ouray County Community Fund, with additional funding from the Telluride Foundation, Town of Ridgway, and generous donors.

Produced, written, designed, and edited by: Ashley Bembenek, Alpine Environmental Consultants; Tanya Ishikawa, BT Multimedia Communications; and Mary Menz, UWP Board Member

UWP was founded in 2007, and incorporated in 2013 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to understanding, restoring, and protecting the upper Uncompahgre River Watershed.

In collaboration with citizens, nonprofits, businesses, and local, regional, state, and federal government agencies, ongoing projects include mine reclamation, water monitoring and analysis, riparian area restoration, educational activities, river cleanups, and the annual Ridgway RiverFest ([www.ridgwayriverfest.org](http://www.ridgwayriverfest.org)).

*UWP relies on the support of volunteers and donors to execute its goals and projects. Please use the contact info on the back cover to learn how to volunteer and donate. Thank you!*



ATTACHMENT 1

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Ridgway, CO  
81432

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uwpcommunications@gmail.com

uncompahgrewatershed.org





## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

**Collaboration & Stewardship** – As always, the focus of the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) in 2019 was on collaborating with stakeholders and partners on projects that protect and improve the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed. Our nonprofit's stability, thanks to a dedicated board of directors and consistent donors and volunteers, helped us reach our goals and plan new initiatives.

In this 2019 Annual Report, you can learn about UWP's efforts in:

- stewardship through water quality monitoring efforts such as the River Watch program and the Ouray Hydrodam Sediment Release Study – *see pages 3 & 4*
- stewardship of the watershed through creating a watershed guide to inform the community and visitors about our precious resources – *see page 3*
- collaboration on improving the Uncompahgre River's tributaries through mine reclamation and restoration projects – *see page 5*
- collaboration in protecting and restoring riparian areas by organizing volunteer service events – *see page 6*

On Page 7, we report on three annual events and their success in 2019. The Ridgway RiverFest is our biggest event every year, due to the hard work of many people including RiverFest Assistant Pamela Cannalte, the third member of UWP's contractor team.

Finally, Page 8 is all about collaboration as we introduce our 2019 Partner of the Year and recognize our board members who represent watershed concerns and connect with stakeholders around the community. Plus, throughout this report, you'll learn about financial stewards of our community that have awarded grants and donated to our various projects. These generous organizations and individuals truly make it possible for UWP to work on its mission of protecting and improving the watershed.

Please take a few moments to read about our recent accomplishments in this report. I hope they inspire you to increase your participation and commitment to UWP's collaborative activities, and join us as stewards of the watershed.

*With appreciation, Tanya Ishikawa*



### ATTACHMENT 2



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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Office: 133 N. Lena St. #3

Ridgway, CO 81432

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To sign up for email updates,  
donate and learn about  
our activities and volunteer  
opportunities, visit

[www.uncompahgrewatershed.org](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org)

Lake Como

*Photo by Mary Menz*





Governor Creek next to a mine waste rock pile in lower Governor Basin

*Photo by Ashley Bembenek*

#### **Our Mission:**

The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership exists to help protect the economic, natural, and scenic values of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed. We work to inform and engage all stakeholders and solicit input from diverse interests to ensure collaborative restoration efforts in the watershed.

#### **Our Goals:**

- (1) Improve water quality
- (2) Improve riverine ecosystem function
- (3) Improve seasonal low flows
- (4) Improve recreational opportunities
- (5) Maintain a stable stakeholder group

UWP is a volunteer-driven nonprofit. We use our funding efficiently by hiring three part-time contractors who together work less hours than one full-time staff position. We are extremely thankful for more than 100 volunteers who help us accomplish our projects. Our board volunteers alone donated nearly 1,000 hours in 2019.

## MESSAGE FROM THE TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

**Hello, UWP supporters!**

In thinking back on the past few years with the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP), I'm thrilled with what our little nonprofit and our partners have accomplished. I'm most excited about the progress made towards cleaning up Governor Basin. In 2017, all we knew was that Governor Basin had very poor water quality and large mine waste piles. To make the project a reality, we've dug through heaps of information to better understand everything from land ownership to sediment chemistry. This research, and insights from our partners, allowed us to create a simple and effective preliminary reclamation design.

I'm grateful to our partners at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and Ouray Silver Mines. Their feedback improved our grant applications and allowed us to secure more than \$220,000 in commitments to restore Governor Basin! In the coming years, I look forward to sharing our progress with the community.

*Thanks for your continued support!*  
*Ashley Bembenek*







UWP's River Watch team  
Photo by Tanya Ishikawa

## WATERSHED INFORMATION & EDUCATION

### The Uncompahgre River Watershed in Ouray County

UWP published "The Uncompahgre River Watershed in Ouray County" information booklet at the end of 2019. To determine the most valuable content to include in the compact booklet, we gathered input from around the county through various stakeholder outreach activities. The resulting publication provides useful information about water sources, uses, quality, quantity, conservation, and other relevant topics. With 500 printed copies plus digital copies available online, we plan to distribute the booklet in 2020 and for several years to come.

### Watershed Education for Elementary Students

For another year, a UWP board member taught Ridgway third graders about the water cycle and the watershed. Three board members led a day-long activity session at the annual 4th Grade Natural Resource Festival in Montrose in May, while three board members and volunteers provided watershed education activities at UWP's annual Ridgway Riverfest in June. In the fall, three board members led an activity at the annual Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Schools and Outdoor Learning Environments Family Nature Night in Ridgway, plus one board member participated in two days of student watershed presentations at Oak Grove Elementary in Montrose.

### Website Update

In 2019, UWP's website ([www.uncompahgrewatershed.org](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org)) was refreshed with a new, more contemporary page format, and reorganized to better highlight our projects and activities. Our nonprofit saves money by using a mostly free online platform, and managing content in-house. We still have more to add to the site, which is a work in progress, and we are excited to find ways to make our online resources easier to use and search.

## WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

### Colorado River Watch

River Watch is an important program operated by Colorado Parks & Wildlife that supports a network of citizen scientists in every watershed in the state. Each volunteer spends up to 10 hours per month sampling water quality in rivers and tributaries, to provide valuable data for government agencies and nonprofits. At the end of 2018, two local River Watch volunteers moved away. UWP spent many hours on outreach to find new volunteers and coordinate their new activities. As a result, we now have five volunteers sampling at six locations, an increase from the four previous sites. The samples will be analyzed to create data on several metals and other water quality indicators. Our efforts to keep this water quality monitoring program going in our watershed are among our most important accomplishments in 2019, because our volunteers' work will result in hundreds of water quality data points, which will lead to future watershed improvements from other projects by UWP and other organizations.

#### Project Funders and Collaborators:

Ouray County Community Fund  
Telluride Foundation  
Town of Ridgway  
City of Ouray  
Ouray County  
Shavano Conservation District  
Ridgway Elementary School  
Oak Grove Elementary  
Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
River Science  
UWP Members

#### Volunteers:

Ronna Edgett-Underwood  
Ethan Funk  
Arlen Huggins  
John Hulburd  
Amy Relnick  
Diane Spooner  
UWP Board



River Watch training in Durango  
Photo by John Hulburd





Uncompahgre River north of Ouray  
Hydrodam and upstream of the  
Perimeter Trail bridge  
*Photo by Ashley Bembenek*

## WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP CONTINUED

### Project Funders and Collaborators:

Colo. Department of Public Health  
& Environment  
Eric Jacobsen  
Ouray County  
Town of Ridgway  
Telluride Foundation  
Delta County  
Centers for Disease Control &  
Prevention  
UWP members

### Volunteers:

Adam Bembenek  
Chuck Heywood  
Eric Jacobsen  
Jeff Litteral

## Hydrodam Sediment Release Studies

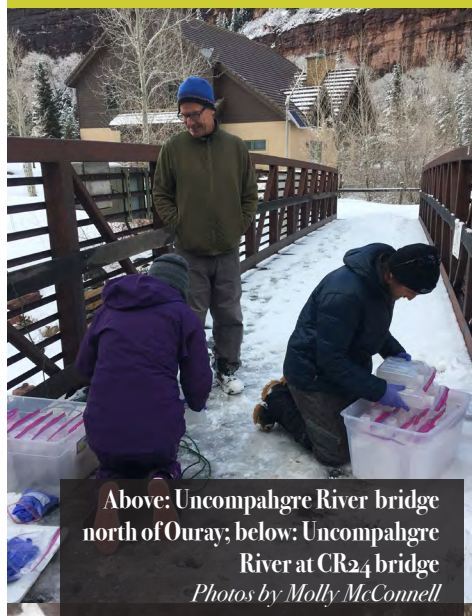
To maintain safe operating conditions and optimize power generation, accumulated sediment must be released each spring from the reservoir of the Ouray Hydrodam. Unusual circumstances, such as a log jam near the penstock (a critical component of the hydrodam), may require smaller releases at other times. Over the years, community members have expressed concerns about the potential impacts of the sediment and changes in water quality during the sediment releases.

In response to those concerns UWP led studies late March of 2017 and 2019, to assess changes to water quality and sediment dynamics during sediment releases. Although both 2017 and 2019 had above-average snowfall, stream flows during each study were remarkably different. In 2017, several days of warm weather increased stream flow. In 2019, a cold front and snowstorm just before and during the study caused stream flows to drop dramatically. Flows in 2017 were approximately four times greater than in 2019. The relatively large difference helped characterize the range of conditions in which sediment releases may occur. In 2019, three locations were sampled during the release: the Uncompahgre River approximately 300 feet downstream of the hydrodam at the Perimeter Trail bridge, the Uncompahgre River at the USGS gage and pedestrian bridge on the north end of Ouray, and the Uncompahgre River in Ridgway at the County Road 24 bridge.

As expected, the change in water color was most pronounced immediately downstream of the hydrodam and decreased as distance from the dam increased. As water and sediment moved downstream, larger sediments like gravel and sand fell from the water column. In the absence of the hydrodam, the sediment moved during the release would have traveled through the Uncompahgre River naturally albeit over a longer period of time as the river ebbs and flows. The sediment releases change the rate of sediment movement, but do not affect the overall quantity of sediment moved. Conservatively, the sediment release accounts for less than one percent of the annual sediment load of the Uncompahgre River. Based on water quality data collected before, during, and after the 2017 and 2019 sediment releases, the sediment releases change water quality for a very brief period. When compared to River Watch data collected from the Uncompahgre River in Ouray and in Ridgway at County Road 24 over the past decade, metal concentrations measured during the release were not greater than the concentrations observed during runoff for most metals.

## Outreach about Free Well Testing

Ouray County was part of a six-county partnership providing free private well water sampling for the past five years. In 2018 and 2019, UWP representatives reached out to local governments, media and landowners, as well as participants at events, to notify them of the well testing opportunity. Our hope is that well owners would become better informed about the safety of their water. The last free testing kits were sent out in December 2019, and Delta County – the lead agency for the partnership – is collecting final kits and data to create an online report of well conditions for the region and areas within it (no individual well data will be shared publicly).



Above: Uncompahgre River bridge  
north of Ouray; below: Uncompahgre  
River at CR24 bridge  
*Photos by Molly McConnell*





Project partners at Sneffels  
Creek near Atlas Mill

## MINE RECLAMATION & RESTORATION

### Governor Basin Project Planning

In late 2018 and early 2019, UWP and project partners continued to refine plans for the Governor Basin Restoration Project. We plan to cap and cover acidic metals-laden tailings with neutralizing materials to prevent contact with uncontaminated snowmelt, precipitation, and stream flow. Drainage channels will be constructed to direct water through and around the site. Disturbed areas will be seeded with a custom high-alpine seed mix. Together, these actions will restore the ecological function of the site and improve water quality.

To make our plans a reality, UWP needed to secure funds from local partners and grant programs. We are very pleased to report that our applications to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Gunnison Basin Roundtable, and the Natural Resource Damages Fund were successful to secure more than \$140,000 for the project. UWP and our local partners, including Ouray Silver Mines and the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, have an additional \$80,000 in cash and in-kind support for the project.

In 2020, we will work with the U.S. Forest Service and Ouray Silver Mines to finalize the project design and secure necessary approvals for the project. We look forward to construction and sharing project outcomes with the community in coming years.

### Atlas Mill Project Planning

Ouray Silver Mines and Trout Unlimited have partnered to expand upon UWP's bank stabilization project in Sneffels Creek near the Atlas Mill site (completed in 2017). In 2019, the project team focused on refining the design of the Atlas Mill project and getting U.S. Forest Service approval for the portion of the project on federal lands. If all goes well, there will be shovels in the ground shortly. UWP may assist with post-project monitoring efforts. A portion of the project's funding is the result of an enforcement action taken by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment attributed to permit violations by the former owner of the Revenue Mine.

### Red Mountain Mining District Winter Tour

UWP's mine reclamation work originates from the need to address impacts from abandoned mines, mostly operated in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Each February, including in 2019, we organize a tour of several mining areas guided by Ouray County Museum Curator Don Paulson. A group of 20 guests joined us on a fun and interesting tour through the snowy landscape to learn about mining history, geology and the legacy of heavy metal drainage in the watershed.

#### Project Funders and Collaborators:

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Colo. Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety  
Gunnison Basin Roundtable  
Colo. Natural Resources Damage Fund  
Ouray County  
Ouray Silver Mines, Inc.  
Trout Unlimited  
United States Forest Service

#### Partners and Volunteers:

Brian Briggs  
Grant Clark  
Curtis Cross  
Ross Davis  
Briana Greer  
Jeff Litteral  
Jason Willis  
UWP Board Members

#### Terrible Mine site in Governor Basin

*Photos by Jeff Litteral*







### Volunteers working at Love Your Gorge

*Photo courtesy of  
American Mountain Guides Association*



## RIPARIAN & RIVER HABITAT PROTECTION & RESTORATION

### Project Funders and Collaborators:

Frank L. Massard Trust  
Ouray Ice Park  
Ouray Brewery  
American Rivers  
International Coastal Cleanup  
Town of Ridgway  
Ridgway State Park  
RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service  
Colo. River Water Conservation  
District  
Colo. Watershed Assembly  
Ouray County  
Ouray County Ranch History Museum  
Ouray County Water Users Assoc.  
Tri-County Water Conservancy District  
UWP members

### Volunteers:

18 Love Your Gorge volunteers  
6 Rollans Park Cleanup volunteers  
UWP Board Members

### Rollans Park Adopt-A-Park Cleanup

*Photo by Tanya Ishikawa*



## Love Your Gorge Volunteer Event

For the second year, UWP and the Ouray Ice Park organized a volunteer work day at the Uncompahgre River Gorge in Ouray. The event called Love Your Gorge brought together almost 20 volunteers on Sept. 28, 2019. The gorge, where ice climbing activities and a large festival happen every winter, needs a little love to ensure the flora, fauna and Uncompahgre River running through it stay healthy and even get healthier. We get support from American Rivers and the International Coastal Cleanup each year, plus the Frank L. Massard Trust awarded a \$600 grant for 2019, when the activities focused on erosion control on the top edges of the gorge plus cleaning up along the top of the gorge. The hard work was followed by a delicious homemade lunch and beer donated by Ouray Brewery.

## Rollans Park & Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Cleanups

The annual Rollans Park Cleanup through the Adopt-A-Park program took place on May 4, 2019, in conjunction with a citywide cleanup organized by Ridgway-Ouray Community Council. As always, a handful of energetic volunteers roamed the park alongside the Uncompahgre River in Ridgway, picking up litter and fallen branches on the trails and play areas and preparing the park for summer visitors.

Also in 2019, Ridgway State Park Ranger and avid fly fisherman Nolan Tappenden organized an all-day cleanup at the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk area along the Uncompahgre River. On Oct. 13, fishing line and litter were picked up by volunteers including several staff members from RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service. Nolan would like to make the cleanup into an annual autumn event, and UWP hopes to assist in the planning and promotion to ensure yet another segment of the river receives care and attention.

## SEASONAL FLOW IMPROVEMENT

### Stream Management Planning Committee

UWP Board Members Michael Johnson, Jay Montgomery and Scott Williams shared duties serving as our nonprofit's representatives on this important Ouray County water supply planning group in 2018 and 2019. Made up of several stakeholders with a goal of planning for a stable water supply for the county's future, the group was awarded an \$83,200 grant by the Colorado Water Conservation Board to create the Upper Uncompahgre Cooperative Stream Management Plan. Wright Water Engineers worked with the group to gather data and create a plan, which was complete in the fall of 2019. UWP plans to continue participating in the community process as the plans are implemented, to provide useful information about watershed science and perspectives gained from our collaborations with the various water users in the community.





2019 Ridgway RiverFest  
Photos by Dave Jones

## STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH & RECREATION EVENTS

### 12th Annual Ridgway RiverFest

What a contrast! From the extreme low water flows in 2018 to the high flows in 2019, the Uncompahgre River changed character completely for the Ridgway RiverFest. Whereas the previous year had seen people of all ages wading across the river, 2019 festival goers stayed safely on the banks as swift water made for some exciting boating. Though no contestants came forward for the Junk of the Unc homemade boat race, a contingent of racers on paddleboards, kayaks and rafts showed up to compete. Instead of a Rubber Ducky Race where many quackers surely would have been lost to the waves, we had an on-land Rubber Duck Hunt with prize winners. Back by popular demand was Ute cultural storyteller Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk as well as bluegrass band, Sugar & The Mint, from Arizona. The whole day was a great success from the River Rat Marketplace (silent auction) to the drinks, food and watershed education and games.

### Fly Fishing Film Tour

In 2019, UWP was again a beneficiary of funds raised by the Fly Fishing Film Tour showing at the Montrose Pavilion, organized by Mayfly Outdoors and Ross Reels. This time, our nonprofit shared in the proceeds with the Able Women Foundation and the Gunnison Gorge Anglers chapter of Trout Unlimited. UWP volunteers also staffed a table during a fly fishing trade show before the evening films, and got to converse with many fishermen and women about the Uncompahgre River and our activities.

### 9th Annual Mining & Reclamation Conference

UWP once again joined partners in organizing the ninth annual San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference, which was combined with the third annual Innovation Expo in Silverton on September 24 to 26, 2019. The two events continue to bring together diverse mining and reclamation interests from industry, government, nonprofits, and academia to develop solutions and partnerships to address watershed pollution from abandoned mines. Under the theme "Changing Approaches", presentations and demonstrations were given by speakers from across the U.S. as well as South America. Unique sessions included a panel discussion about Superfund legalities within historic mining districts, the judged Student Challenge Poster Session with scholarship prizes, a Lightning Talk project pitch event, and a showing of "The Mine Next Door" documentary about the Idarado Mine's history. As usual, the guided field trips to historic and mine reclamation sites for on-the-ground observations and discussions were a highlight.

## ATTACHMENT 2 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**Project Funders and Collaborators:**  
Animas River Stakeholders Group  
Colo. Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety

Colo. Department of Public Health & Environment

Double RL Ranch

Headwaters Alliance

Mayfly Outdoors/Ross Reels

Mountain Studies Institute

Town of Ridgway

San Juan Mountain Runners

San Miguel Watershed Coalition

Ridgway RiverFest Sponsors – see [ridgwayriverfest.org/2019-sponsors/](http://ridgwayriverfest.org/2019-sponsors/)

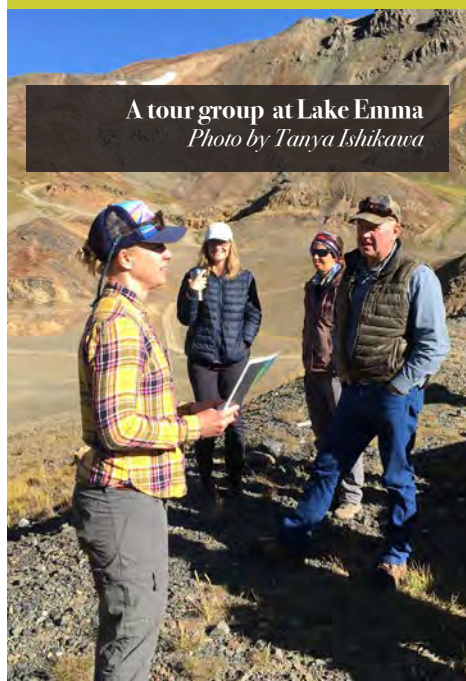
San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference Sponsors – see [tinyurl.com/2019SJMRCsponsors](http://tinyurl.com/2019SJMRCsponsors)

#### **Volunteers:**

40+ RiverFest volunteers

10+ Conference volunteers

UWP Board Members



A tour group at Lake Emma  
Photo by Tanya Ishikawa





**2019 PARTNER OF THE YEAR:  
MENDY STEWART**

Mendy Stewart has been with Shavano Conservation District since 2012. Mendy is the district's outreach and education coordinator and her main duties include developing educational information, implementing programs in the local schools, and facilitating the district's conservation booth at community events. She also produces the quarterly newsletter and updates the website. Mendy has been the project leader for the 4th Grade Natural Resource Festival for eight years, and the event is in its 28th year. UWP participates along with 20 other organizations annually, allowing us to reach more than 450 children from the local school districts each May. We are super appreciative of Mendy's outstanding coordination of the huge festival that has a major educational impact in our watershed. Mendy has also been the Shavano Conservation District's main representative to host their booth at UWP's Ridgway RiverFest each June. She makes sure to bring interesting activities and information to share and enlighten festival goers about our watershed resources. Between the two festivals, Mendy helps UWP educate more than 500 school-age youth every year.



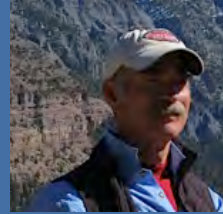
Thank you very much, Mendy and Shavano Conservation District! *(Plus, special thanks to the Colorado Boy Pub & Brewery in Ridgway for donating a gift card to Mendy.)*

## 2019 UWP Board Members

**President  
Dennis Murphy**



**Vice President  
Gary Roberts**



**Treasurer  
Scott Williams**



**Secretary  
Judi Chamberlin**



**Amanda  
Clements**



**Michael  
Johnson**



**Mary  
Menz**



**Jay  
Montgomery**



**Brad  
Wallis**



**Anthony  
Ramsey**



Note: George Patten was a board member through May 2019.

## UWP's 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

UWP had another very good year financially in 2019, with great donor support and grant awards. We managed to keep our expenses low, so our net revenue helped create reserves and savings for projects in 2020. Donor and grantor generosity not only helped protect and improve our watershed,

many donors benefited from charitable tax deductions, and numerous Colorado residents and businesses received certificates totaling \$3,569 in Colorado state income tax credits. Our biggest fundraisers of 2019 were the Ridgway RiverFest and our year-end membership drive. Plus, our biggest funders were the Telluride Foundation, Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Town of Ridgway, BeP Earthwise Foundation (Barbara Parish and Gary Roberts), Ouray County Community Fund, Marti and Patrick O'Leary, Gary Roberts, and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

**2019 Total Revenue: \$70,869**  
**2019 Total Expenses: \$57,379**  
**Net Revenue: \$13,490**

### Funding by Category

Grants: 44%  
Ridgway RiverFest Proceeds: 29%  
Donations & Memberships: 24%  
Other Fundraising Event Income: 3%

### Expenses by Category

Programs: 76%  
RiverFest (Fundraising & Outreach): 20%  
Other Events & Campaigns: 2%  
General Operations: 2%



**2019  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



# Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership Involvement in the River Watch Program



**Ridgway Town Sampling Site**

# River Watch Program

- *River Watch is a statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program operated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)*
  - *Volunteers monitor water quality and other indicators of watershed health*
  - *Produces a high-quality data set unique in its statewide focus and frequency of data collection*
- *River Watch is primarily funded by CPW through a mix of federal funds and Colorado Lottery funds*

# River Watch Program

- *River Watch creates baseline data sets for rivers throughout Colorado*
  - *Volunteers sample and analyze all stations monthly for **temperature, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, and hardness***
  - ***Total and dissolved metals' samples** are also collected monthly and analyzed at CPW laboratories*
  - ***Nutrient samples** are collected at high and low flow and analyzed at CPW laboratories*



# Our health and welfare and the health of the natural environment are important to Ouray County

- *River Watch monitoring tells us the health of the Uncompahgre and if it is at risk*
  - *Measures indicators of stress from metals like aluminum, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, iron, manganese, zinc and others*
  - *Measures responses to stress like the macroinvertebrate community*
- *Primary RW data use is implementation of the Clean Water Act*
  - *CO Dept of Public Health administers the Clean Water Act*
  - *Water Quality Control Division determines water quality standards and determines if a waterbody is impaired*
  - *RW data show if and when water quality standards are exceeded*

## Importance of River Watch Data in the Uncompahgre Basin

- *Many Uncompahgre River segments are listed as impaired for Aquatic Life.*
- *RW data show the seasonal variation in impairment parameters like pH and heavy metals, and when standards are exceeded.*
- *RW data can be used to estimate the daily loads of metals (pounds per day) on the river and how the loads vary seasonally and annually.*
- *RW data can be useful in determining what Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of a metal is required to reduce its concentration below standard.*

## River Watch in the Uncompahgre Basin

- River Watch volunteers have collected water quality samples from the Uncompahgre and its tributaries since as early as 1999. Nearly 20 sampling sites have been used.
- Volunteer groups have included schools in Ouray and Ridgway, individuals and the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP).

UWP has received \$3,000 annually, including \$1,000 for water monitoring from Town of Ridgway for several years. Funds offset what UWP would need to raise to coordinate RW activities (600 plus volunteer hours + 30 staff hours per year) and shipping costs for water samples

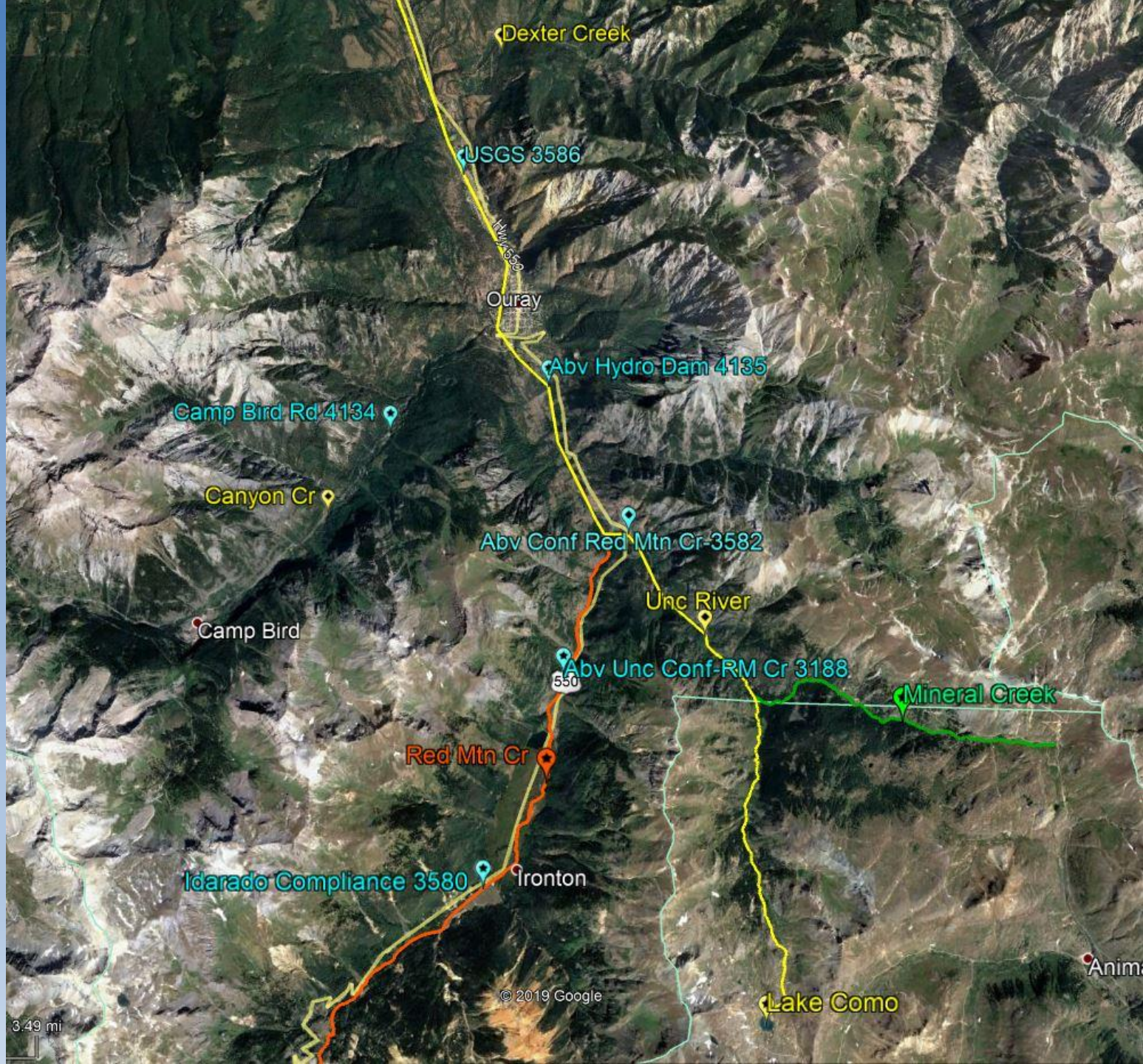
# River Watch in the Uncompahgre Basin

- Currently Eric and Ethan Funk in Ouray and five UWP volunteers in Ridgway take monthly samples from 12 sites in Ouray County.
  - Seven sites are on the Unc River and 5 sites are on Red Mtn Creek, Canyon Creek, Dallas Creek and Cow Creek.
  - Five sites on the Unc from above the RM Creek confluence to below Ridgway Reservoir have continuous data from 2003 to present.



RW sites:  
Iron ton to  
below  
Ouray  
(Funk  
Brothers)

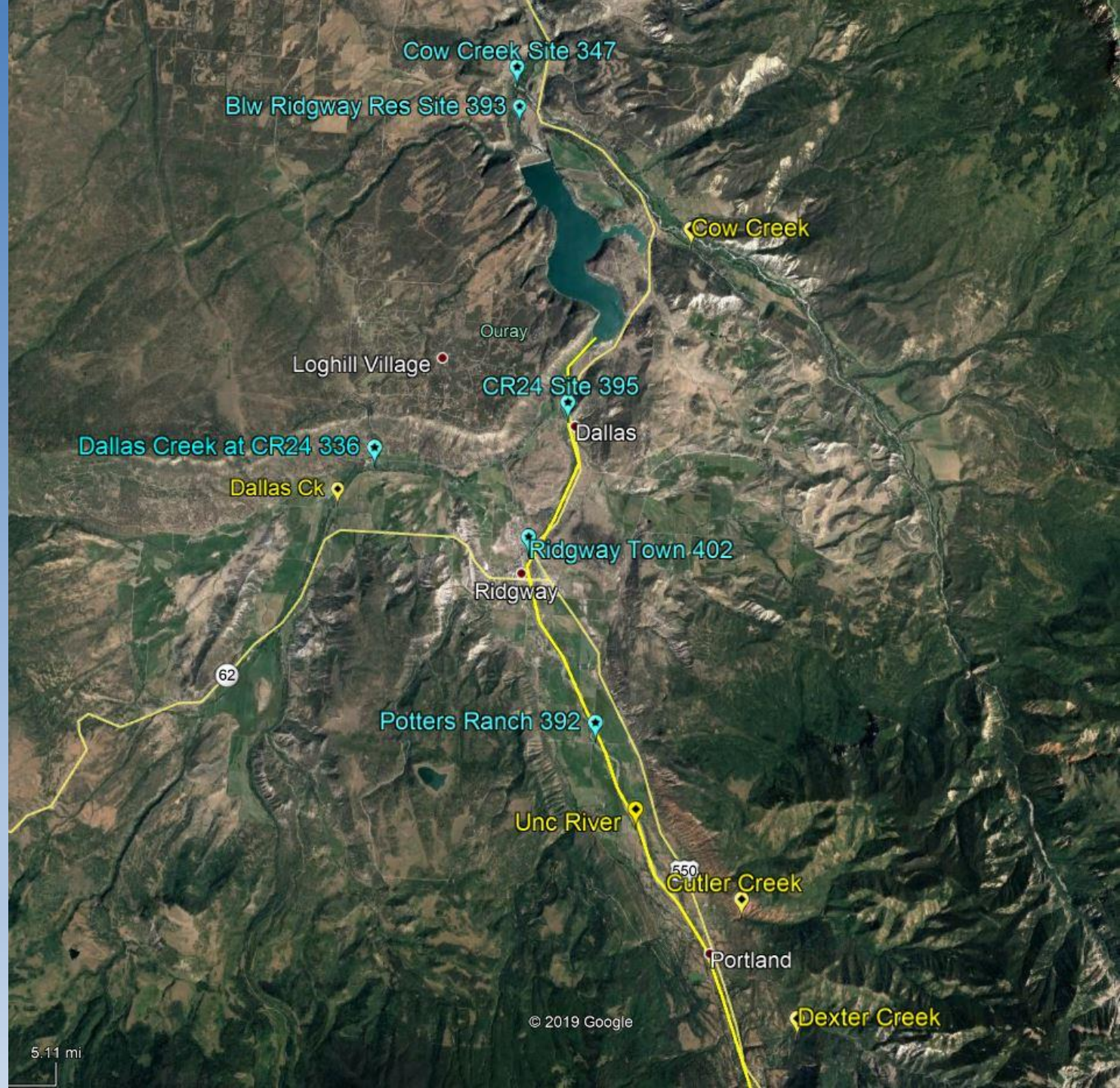
Unc River  
is shown  
by the  
yellow  
line





RW sites:  
above  
Ridgway to  
below  
Ridgway Res  
(UWP  
volunteers)

Unc River is  
shown by  
the yellow  
line



# IMPORTANCE OF RW MEASUREMENTS

Water Hardness – Calcium and Magnesium concentration – offsets the harmful effect of dissolved metals

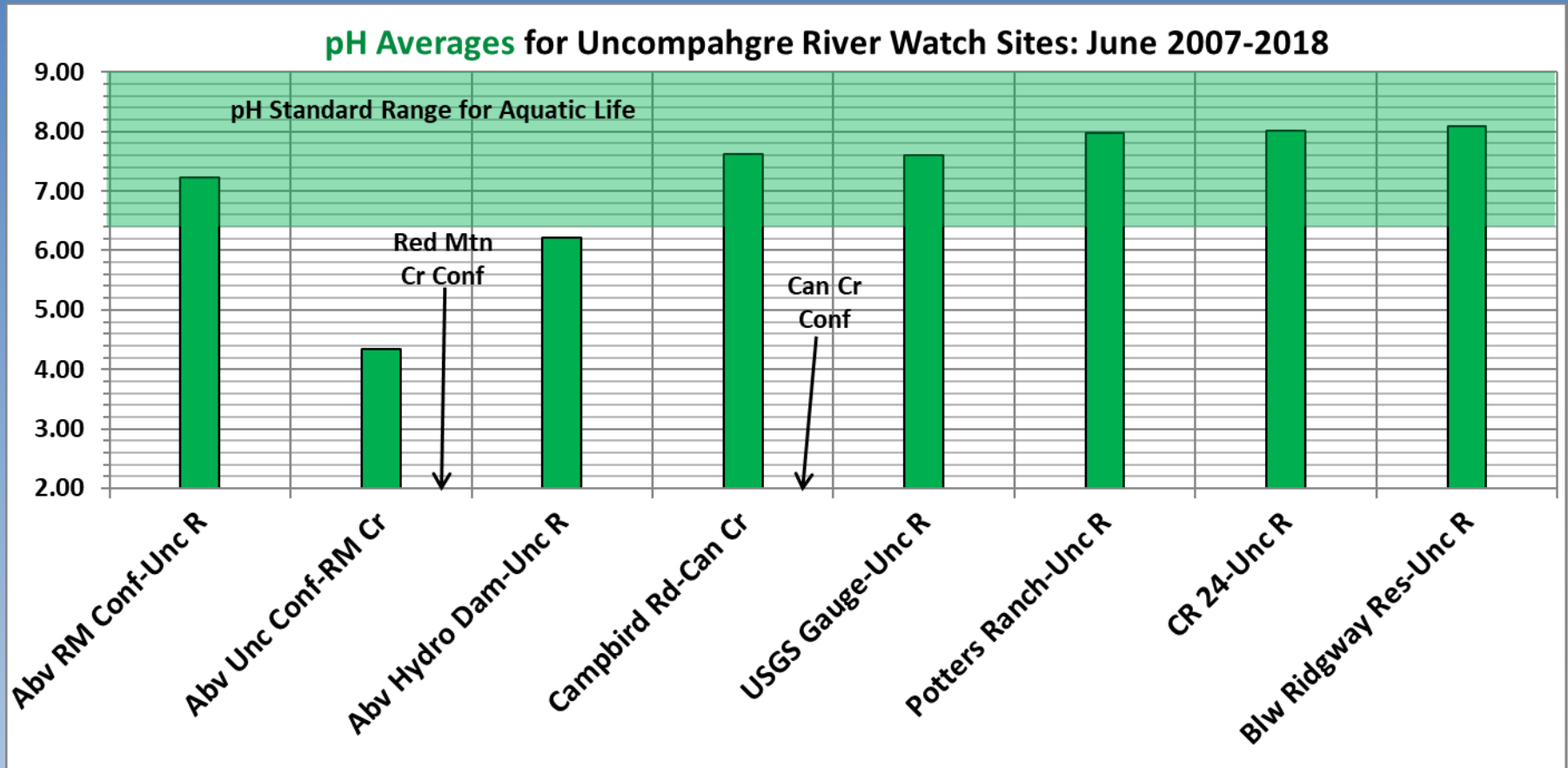
Alkalinity – Carbonate and Bi-carbonate concentration – buffers the impact of acidic input to streams

pH – Measure of the acidity of water – Standard range for aquatic life is 6.5 to 9.0

Dissolved Heavy Metals like Cadmium – At certain concentrations become harmful to aquatic life – attach to gills of fish and impede breathing process

Suspended Metals like Iron – Harmful to aquatic life at concentrations greater than 1000 µg/liter – impedes breathing – covers egg deposits

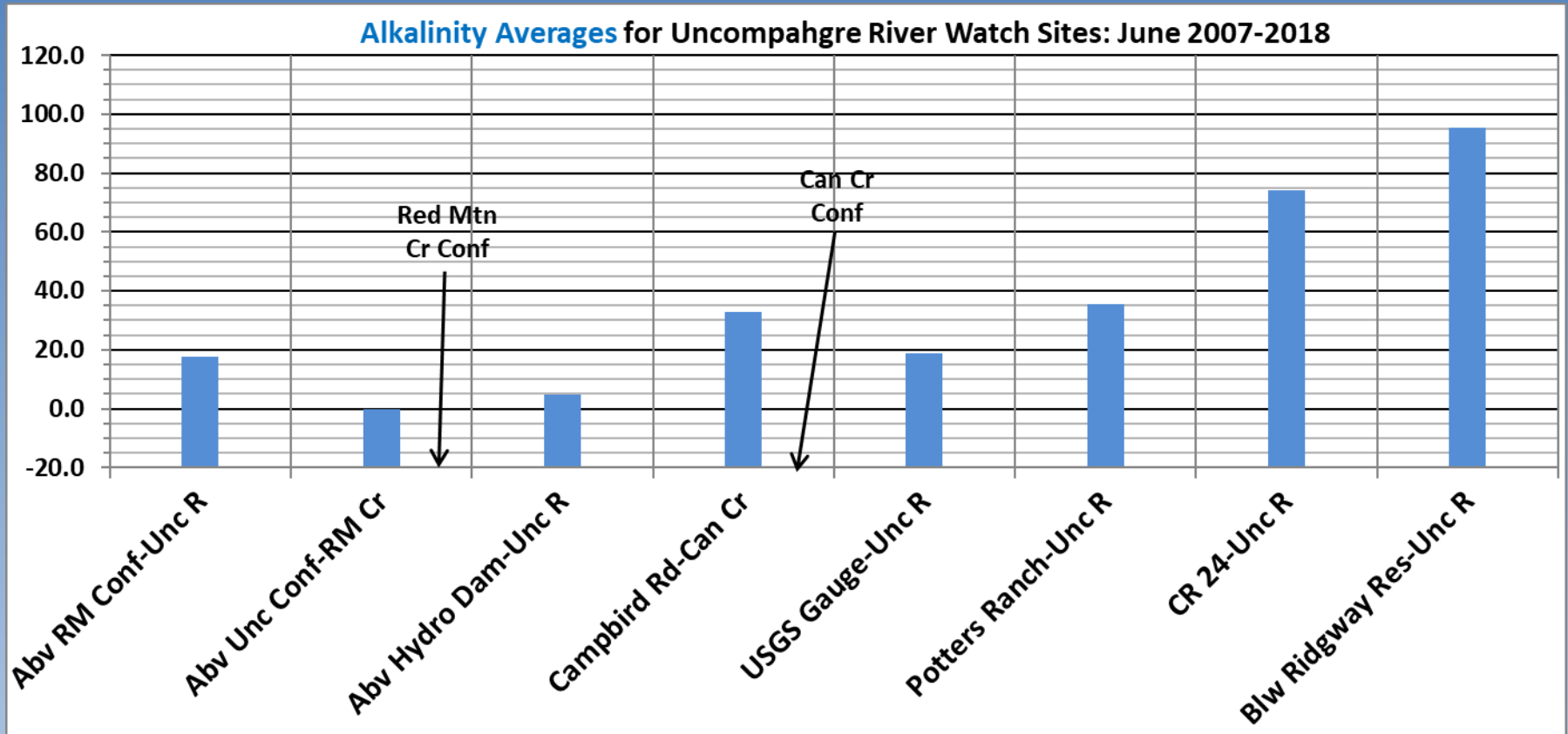
## Example of RW data: pH plotted upstream to downstream



- How pH changes along the river at high flow when flow is mainly from snowmelt
  - Acidic water (below standard) comes from Red Mtn Creek
  - pH rises downstream as higher pH water enters the Unc
  - Low pH water also buffered by higher alkalinity below Ouray

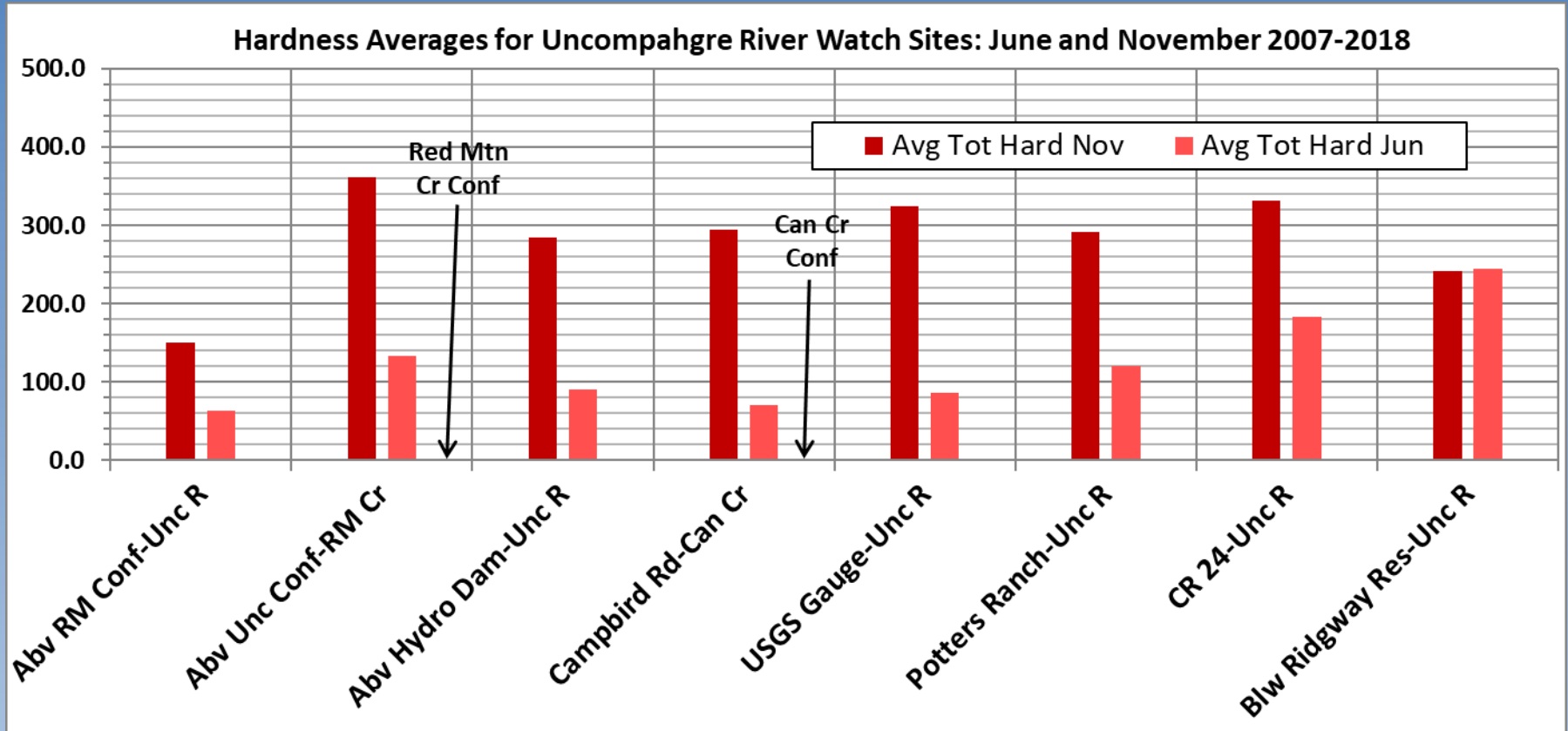


## Example of RW data: Alkalinity plotted upstream to downstream



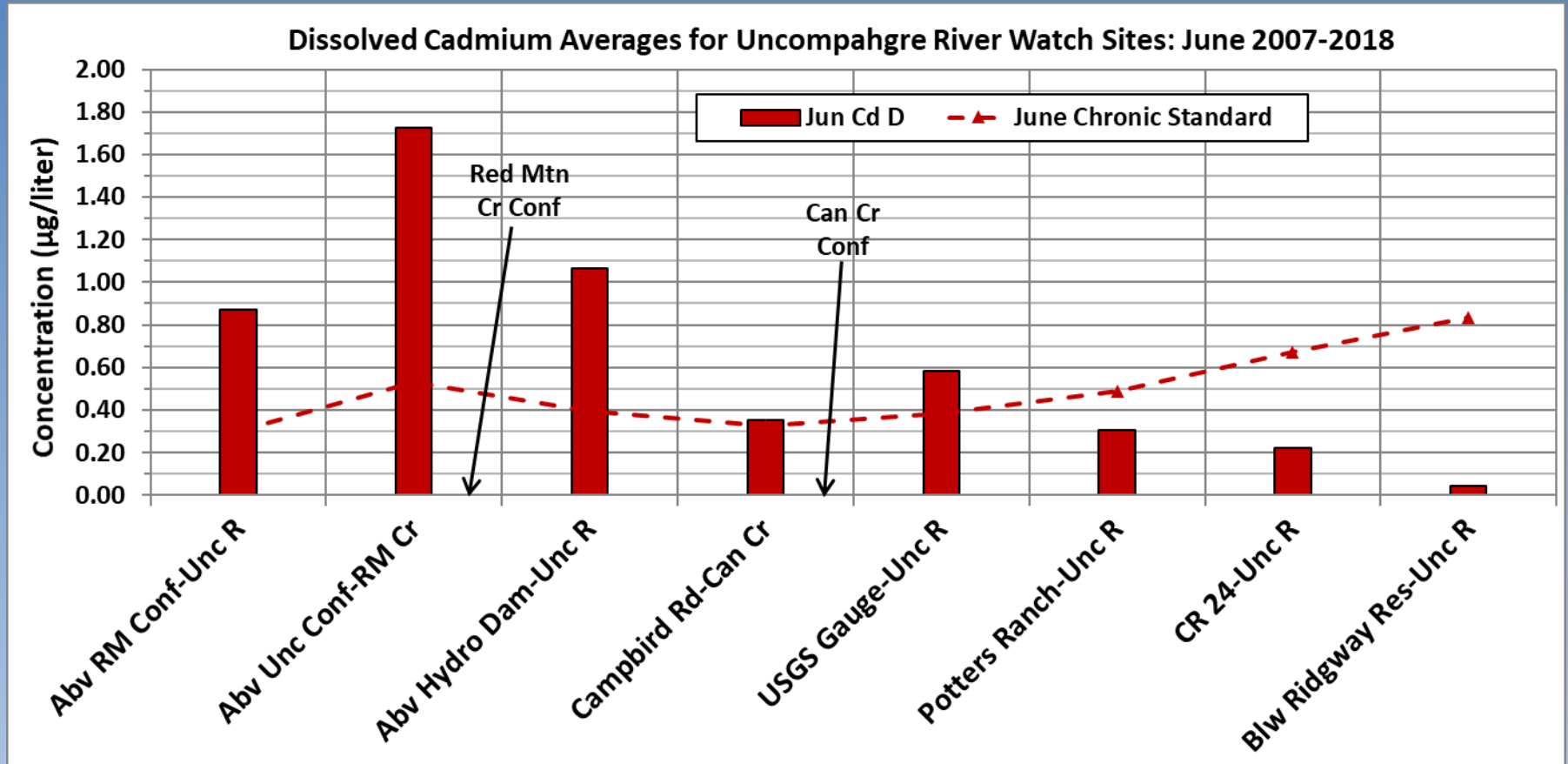
- Alkalinity generally increases along the river at high flow
  - Very low alkalinity at high elevation sites – 0 on RM Creek
  - Alkalinity increases downstream as streambed changes, runoff from ag land begins below Ouray
  - Higher alkalinity buffers acidic water from Red Mtn Creek

## Example of RW data: Hardness plotted upstream to downstream



- How hardness changes along the river at high flow and low flow
  - Lower hardness at high flow due to dilution
  - Downstream hardness increase in June as Mg and Ca are added
  - Higher hardness at low flow with less Mg, Ca input – low water volume

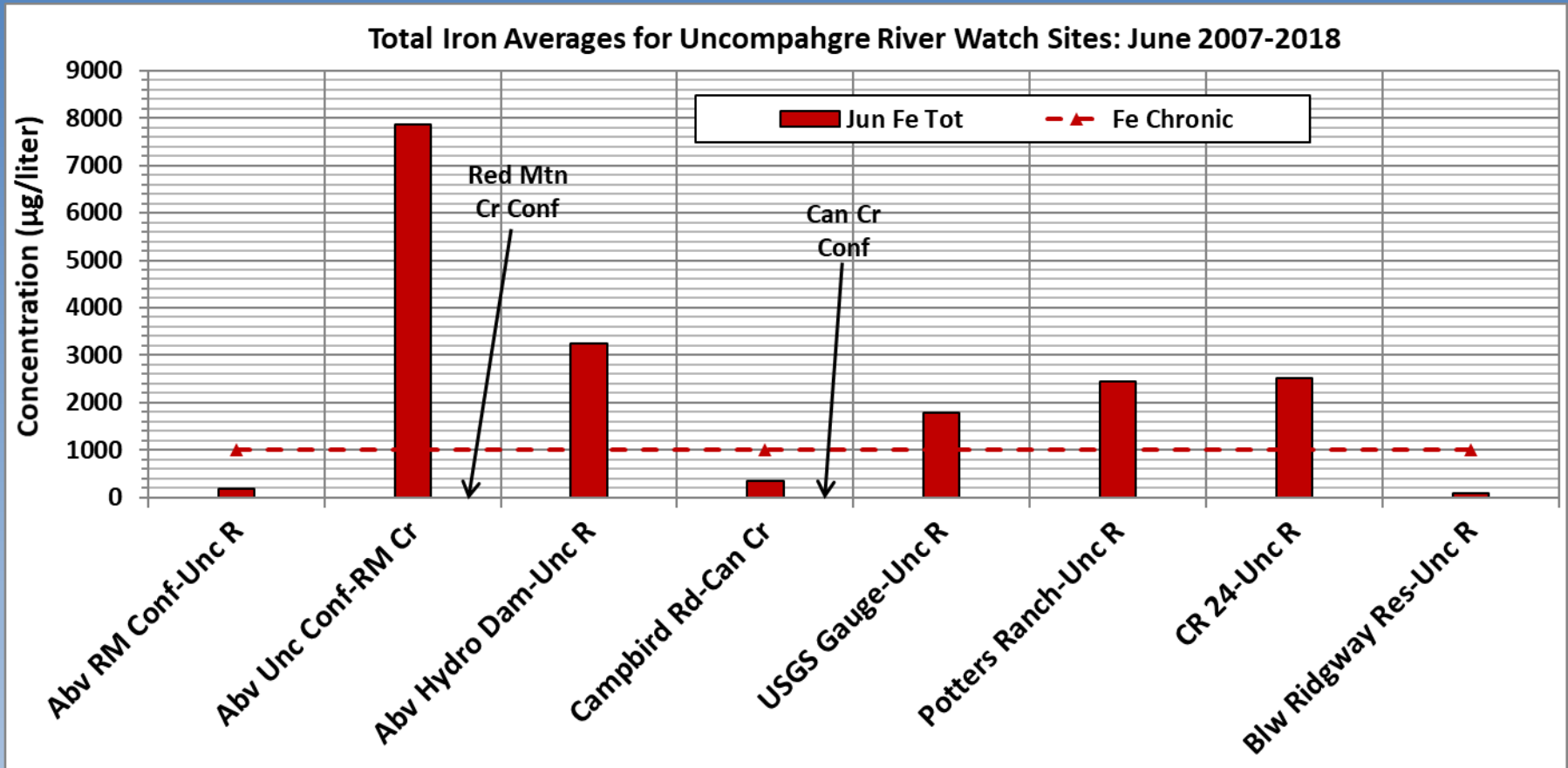
## Example of RW data: Dissolved Cadmium plotted upstream to downstream



- Several Uncompahgre streams are listed as impaired for Cadmium
  - Main source again from Red Mtn Creek
  - Cd concentration decreases downstream as flow increases
  - Cd chronic standard exceeded as far down as the Ouray USGS gauge
  - Copper and Zinc follow a similar pattern

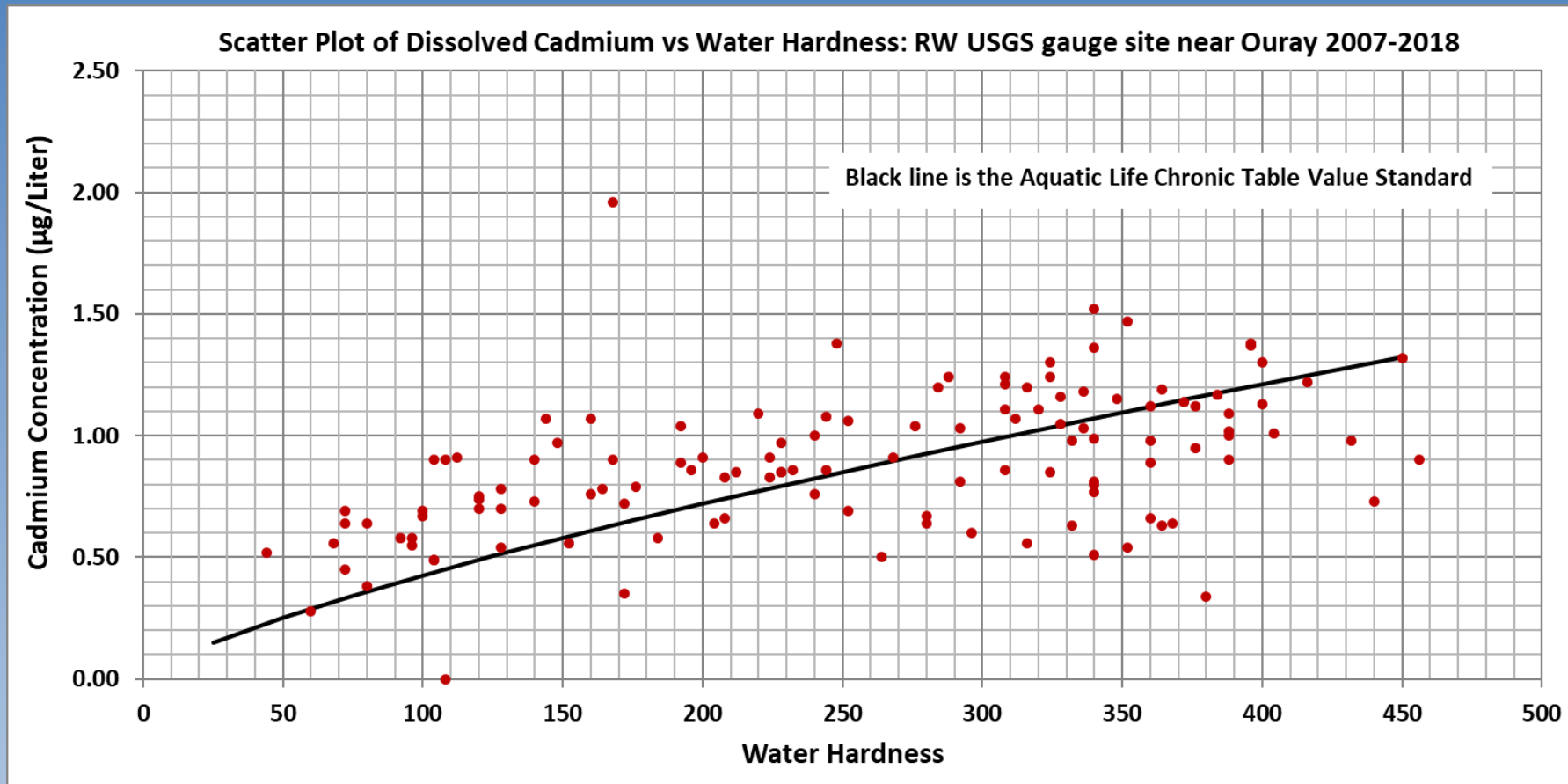


## Example of RW data: Total Iron plotted upstream to downstream



- How total iron concentration changes along the river at high flow
  - Main source again from Red Mtn Creek
  - Low iron concentrations from upper Unc and Canyon Creek
  - Unlike dissolved metals iron increases below Ouray at high flow
  - Chronic standard exceeded all the way to the reservoir
  - Aluminum follows a similar pattern

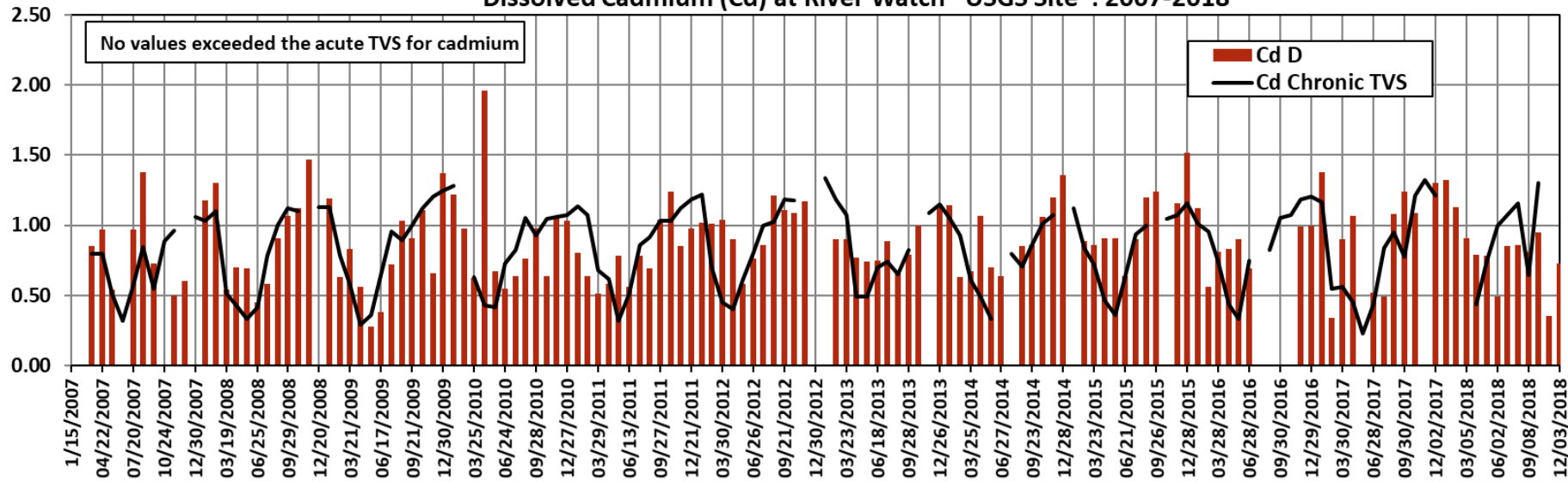
## Example of RW data: Comparison of Cd concentration and hardness



- RW data showing how often metal standards are exceeded
  - Standard increases with water hardness
  - Higher frequency of standard exceedance with hardness  $< 250$
  - Similar plots can be made for all metals at all RW sites

## Example of RW data: Time history of Cd concentration at RW USGS Site

Dissolved Cadmium (Cd) at River Watch "USGS Site": 2007-2018



- Cadmium concentrations by date: 2007-2018
  - Seasonal trend becomes obvious: maxima in winter, minima in summer
  - Chronic standard follows similar pattern: related to water hardness
  - Analysis can be used to assess long-term trends
  - Similar analyses can be made for all metals at all RW sites

# River Watch Website

## <https://coloradoriverwatch.org/>

Organization & Partnerships - Volunteering – RW News –  
Data Entry and Downloads



River Watch  
of Colorado

[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [CONTACT](#) [GET INVOLVED!](#) [RIVER WATCH NEWS](#) [DATA](#) [RESOURCES](#) [DONATE](#)



### ABOUT RIVER WATCH

River Watch is a statewide volunteer water quality-monitoring program operated in partnership between [River Science](#) and [Colorado Parks and Wildlife \(CPW\)](#). Our mission is to work with voluntary stewards to monitor water quality and other indicators of watershed health and utilize this high quality data to educate citizens and inform decision makers about the condition of Colorado's waters. This program is unique in its statewide focus and frequency of data collection.



## AGENDA ITEM #6



**To:** Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** February 12, 2020  
**RE:** **Request for Town to Pay for Remaining Water and Sewer Tap Fees for the Habitat for Humanity Triplex at Parkside Subdivision Lot 15 on N. Laura Street**

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**SUMMARY:**

Erica Weeks, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans (Habitat), will attend Wednesday's Council meeting to request of the Town to pay the remaining water and sewer tap fees and cost for the meter/MXU for their triplex development at Parkside Subdivision, Lot 15, located on N. Laura Street. To supplement their request, Habitat has submitted a letter, which is appended to this memo as Attachment 1. The letter describes the project and the various funding partners and it also depicts the remaining fees due to the Town. The remaining fees are described below:

- \$9,000 fee for three water taps
- \$4,880 fee for the shared sewer tap
- \$1,080 for three water meters and MXUs

The total requested amount for the above listed fees is \$14,960

**RECOMMENDATION:**

With our self-supporting Water Enterprise Fund and Sewer Enterprise Fund, the Town is not afforded the ability to waive applicable tap fees. If Council elects to move forward with waiving Habitat's responsibility to pay the remaining fees, the Town will have to provide a subsidy from the General Fund to cover the remaining fees. Chapter 9-1-8(A) of the Ridgway Municipal Code states, "No connection to the Town's water or sewer system shall be allowed until an application is submitted on forms provided by the Town and approved by the Town. The application shall be accompanied by required tap fees." Furthermore, if Council decides to accommodate the request, the recommendation would be to utilize the funds within the "Affordable Housing" line item in the Administrative Services Program Budget in the General Fund. Currently, there is \$35,151 in that line item.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – Letter from Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans  
Attachment 2 – Ridgway Partner Families



*We build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter.*

February 6, 2020

From: Erica L. Weeks, Executive Director  
Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans  
1601 N. Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, CO 81401

To: Ridgway Town Council  
201 N. Railroad St.  
Ridgway, CO 81432

Subject: Request to waive remaining escalator fees for the Habitat for Humanity development at Parkside Subdivision Lot 15 on N. Laura Street

Dear Council members,

Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans (HFHSJ) is officially laying the groundwork to begin construction at the triplex planned for Parkside Subdivision Lot 15 in Ridgway. HFHSJ purchased this lot for \$89,494 with a \$25,000 grant from the Telluride Foundation and a loan from Alpine Bank to develop as affordable housing in September 2016. We currently own this land free and clear, along with having an initial investment into three water and sewer taps of \$9,300, transferred at the time of purchase.

Our estimated groundbreaking will be late spring/early summer 2020. This development marks our first construction project in Ouray County since Habitat for Humanity of Telluride and Habitat for Humanity of Montrose County merged in 2015. We are excited to work with town residents, the partner families, town staff, council and the business community to build these homes and are striving to bring a well-coordinated plan to the community. Like raising a family, raising the walls of a Habitat home, "takes a village". Our experience with the residents and professionals of Ridgway and throughout the region to date indicates an overwhelming amount of support for this work.

Our project partners have contributed an estimated \$20,000-\$25,000 so far in this project. Phil Motley of Motley Architecture and Designs (MAD) contributed \$10,550 in in-kind design services. Julee Wolverton contributed the full cost of her landscaping architectural design fees (\$2,550). We've contracted with Black Canyon Engineering of Montrose for full structural design. Owner, Drew Ruderman, offered his services at no cost to Habitat. Peter Sauer of Orion Surveying, LLC donated all survey work at no cost. We are also bringing our partner, Montrose Forest Products, to the table. Montrose Forest Products has regularly donated all the framing lumber for Habitat builds. Of course, Habitat for Humanity International provides its support with national partnerships that allow us access to countless materials and appliances at discounted costs as well.

We have also received support from residents and the El Pomar Foundation, valued at \$14,400. In total, the project has received nearly \$60,000 in contributions, and we are just beginning. This investment not only marks a level of faith these foundations, individuals and business owners have in our work but their investment in a solution to the region's affordable housing needs.

With this regional support as a foundation, HFHSJ formally and respectfully requests the Ridgway Town Council consider waiving the remaining tap fees for the development. We view a fee waiver of this extent as a significant investment by the Town of Ridgway in providing affordable housing solutions to the community. The remaining fees include the following:

- \$9,000 escalator fee for three water taps
- \$4,880 escalator fee for the shared sewer tap
- \$1,440 for four water meters and MXUs

The total requested fee waiver for the above listed fees is \$15,320

ATTACHMENT 1

For more information about the partner families we will be working with, please see the attached flier. These families partnered with HFHSJ in 2017 and are anxious for the day we break ground. We are also in touch with Ride the Rockies to possibly schedule a build day for the touring cyclists—a momentous occasion that we hope to secure. Furthermore, we are applying to AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) to incorporate a project team in the build for their summer session (July 11-September 12<sup>th</sup>). We hope to be successful in this application and will be asking for your support in that application as well, at the appropriate time.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am happy to answer any questions you may have and look forward to working with this council, Ridgway residents and the local business community, very soon.

In the spirit of service,

**Erica Weeks**

**Executive Director**

**Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans**

**970-252-9303 X 5**

[erica@buildinglives.org](mailto:erica@buildinglives.org)

[buildinglives.org](http://buildinglives.org)





## Ridgway Partner Families

### Nancy & Mikael Madsen

Nancy and Mikael met while attending Western State Colorado. Mikael grew up in Puerto Rico and Nancy has called Colorado home since childhood.

Nancy has primarily worked in education, while Mikael has worked in several industries including teaching, training and transportation. Together they spend time cooking, dancing and writing. Their two dogs enjoy family time when its spent hiking around the Western Slope.



### The Balcombe Family

After spending many years visiting the area, Lisa and Cordell moved to Ridgway in 2016. Combining small town hospitality and the foodie culture of the region, Lisa and Cordell welcome and work in the service industry of Ouray County. As a family, they take full advantage of the beautiful backdrop Ouray County offers and spend their family time outdoors. Outings include paddle boarding, bicycling, camping, and hiking around the reservoir and surrounding areas.

Nathan was born in Montrose and grew up in Boulder while Sara originally hails from Missouri. They have called Ridgway home for many years and are immersed in the local art and culture scene. Sarah and Nathan have trained in and embrace a multitude of artistic expressions and feel at home adding to the eccentric and charismatic energy of Ridgway.



Nathan Montgomery & Sara Tellini

## AGENDA ITEM #7



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TOWN HALL PO Box 10 | 201 N. Railroad Street | Ridgway, Colorado 81432 | 970.626.5308 | [www.town.ridgway.co.us](http://www.town.ridgway.co.us)

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To: Ridgway Town Council  
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager  
Date: February 12, 2020  
RE: Request to Use the Town Parking Lot on the Southeast Corner of Hartwell Park for  
Parking Lot Sale on May 9, 2020

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**SUMMARY:**

Bernadette Taylor, on behalf of Friends of Ridgway Schools, will attend Wednesday's meeting to make a request to Council to use the Town parking lot on the southeast corner of Hartwell Park for their Parking Lot Sale on May 9, 2020.

## AGENDA ITEM #8





To: Ridgway Town Council  
From: Shay Coburn, Town Planner  
Date: February 12, 2020  
RE: Review and Action on Application for International Dark Sky Community Designation

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**ACTION BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Council is asked to take action on the application for International Dark Sky Community designation for submittal to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). Val Szwarc, Chair of Ridgway Ouray Community Council's (ROCC) Dark Sky Committee, will attend Wednesday's meeting and be available to answer any questions related to the application.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

"I move to approve *[with or without modifications]* the application for International Dark Sky Community designation, with the ROCC Dark Sky Committee to submit the application on behalf of the Town of Ridgway."

**SUMMARY:**

The attached application for IDA International Dark Sky Community designation was prepared by a volunteer group, the ROCC Dark Sky Committee, with Town support. The efforts leading up to this application have been going on for about two years. The Town has supported this initiative in many ways, including but not limited to:

- Updating the Town's Outdoor Lighting Regulations
- Collaborating with the ROCC Dark Sky Committee on an educational brochure
- Providing a Council-approved cover letter for the application

Once reviewed and approved by Council, this application will be submitted to IDA for their review. If approved, the Town of Ridgway will become a certified IDA International Dark Sky Community, joining an exclusive list of 23 other communities worldwide, 17 of which are in the U.S. The certification signifies exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky and excellence in promoting responsible lighting and dark sky stewardship.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Application for International Dark Sky Community Designation

**Application for International Dark Sky  
Community Designation  
For  
Ridgway, Colorado, USA  
February 2020**



Ridgway at Night, Courtesy of Greg Armstrong

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3.3 Town of Ridgway “Ramp-Up” Project	3-12 to 3-17
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4.2 Community Outreach Activities	4-3 to 4-5
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4.4 Community Support Letters	4-17 to 4-31
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5 Ridgway Sky Quality Measurement Plan	A15 to A19

Document length – 81 pages



Jan. 13, 2020  
IDA Board of Directors  
International Dark-Sky Association  
3225 North First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

We the Town Council of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, hereby submit our initiative to be designated an International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) Dark Sky Community.

The Town of Ridgway has long recognized the value of our dark skies and been a protector of them. We began in 1997 with enactment of an outdoor lighting ordinance (Ordinance 3-1997) that required all outdoor lighting to be fully shielded and limit light trespass. More recently, we completed a major update to our Master Plan (2019), which identified Ridgway's dark skies as a valuable community resource that should continue to be protected through the reduction of light pollution (Policy ENV-4.4; Action ENV-4f). Then, on September 18, 2019, after working closely with members of the Ridgway Ouray Community Council (ROCC) Dark Sky Committee and IDA, Town Council adopted a major revision to its outdoor lighting ordinance (Ordinance 2019-06) that we believe meets the requirements of IDA's 2015 Dark Sky Community Guidelines. The new outdoor lighting ordinance went into effect on October 18, 2019.

The Town of Ridgway and its residents have a deep connection to the outdoors and are committed to being economically sustainable and ecologically responsible. With the additional lighting protections, we intend to maintain preservation of our star-filled night skies, and hopefully even improve them. Managing external lighting will also benefit Ridgway in that it will help to minimize the Town's carbon footprint.

Ridgway Town Council hopes that you will favorably consider our effort to obtain IDA designation as a Dark Sky Community. We would consider it a major accomplishment in our ongoing efforts to preserve the incredible natural resource that is our dark skies, as well as serving as a valuable example to other communities in Western Colorado and beyond.

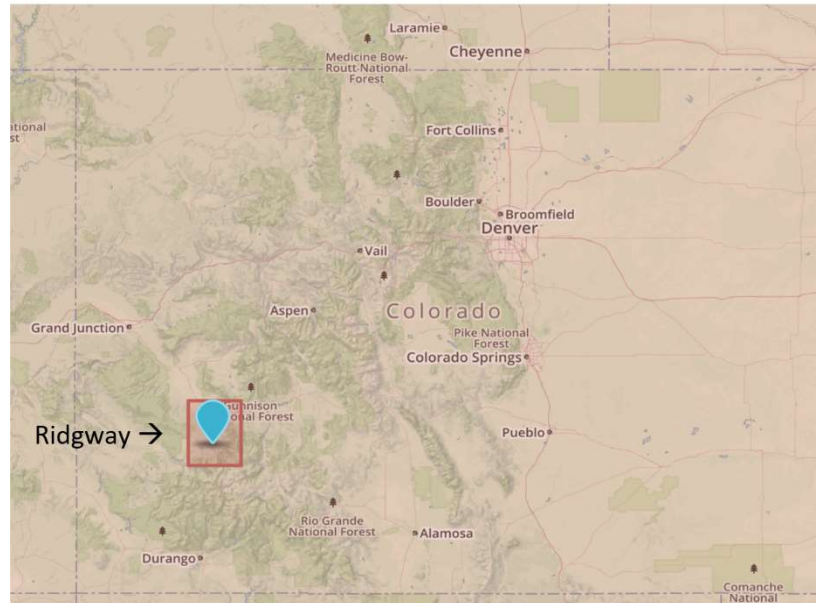
Sincerely, and respectfully,

John I. Clark, Mayor  
On behalf of Town Council  
Ridgway, Colorado



## Section 1.0 Introduction to our Ridgway Colorado IDA Submission

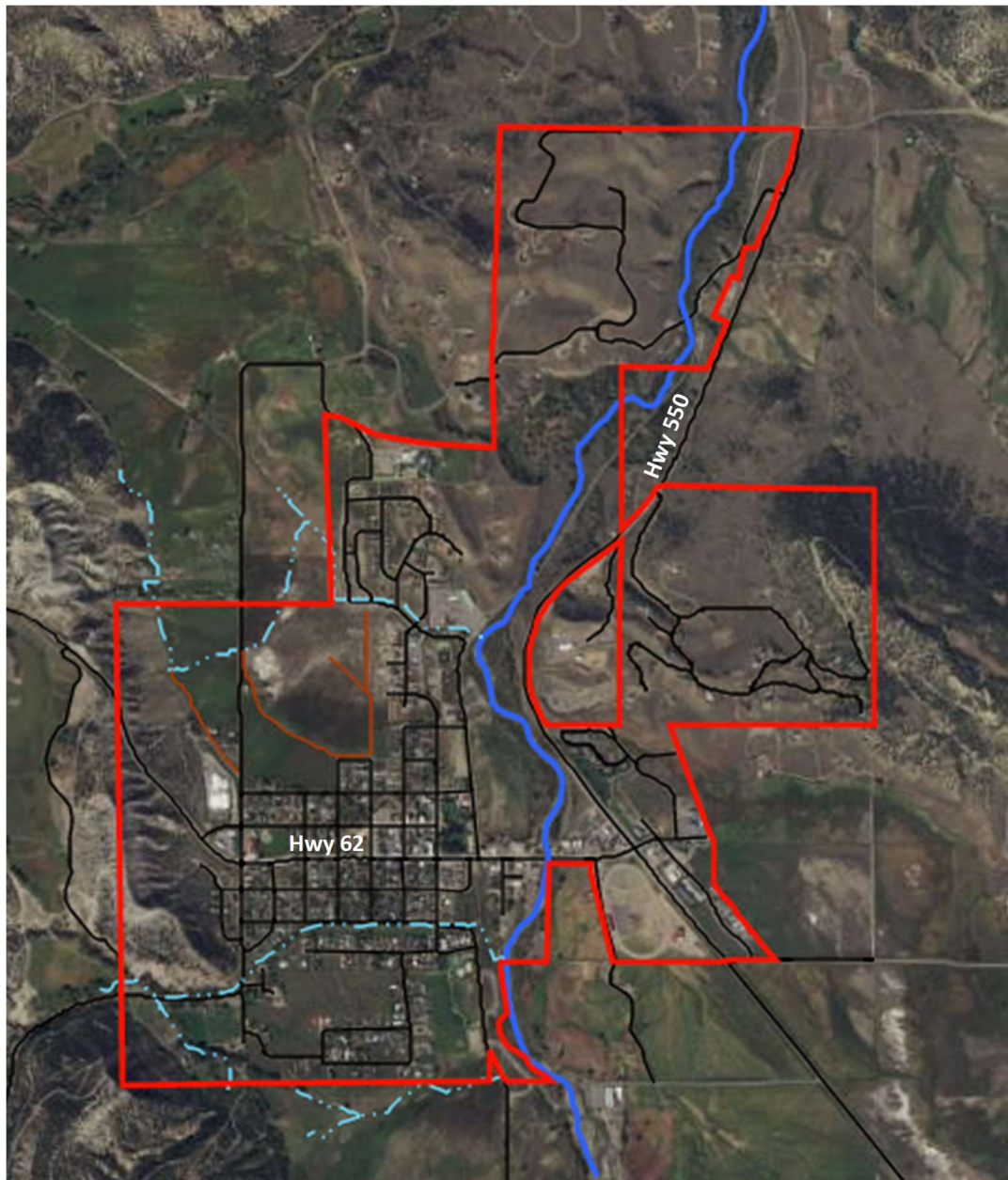
The Town of Ridgway is a home-rule municipality with a population of just over 1,000 people, located along the Uncompahgre River in the foothills of the San Juan Mountains, in colorful southwest Colorado. Once the home of the Ute Indians, the Town's more recent heritage is one steeped in rich railroad and ranching history dating back to 1889 when the Rio Grande Southern Railroad was incorporated to provide rail service between Ridgway and the mining districts of Ouray, Telluride, Rico and Durango. The railroad company, wanting to develop a new town as a headquarters and hub for the growing ranch community, laid out what was to become the Town of Ridgway in 1890. One year later the Town was formally established and named after one of the railroad founders, Robert M. Ridgway.



Though off to a gallant start, Ridgway experienced many great challenges spanning the next several decades which would threatened its very existence: the collapse of the silver market in 1893 (the rail service was used to haul gold and silver ore from nearby Ouray and Telluride), two catastrophic fires, the great depression, two world wars, the demise of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad in the 1950s, and the controversial plan by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to construct a large dam and reservoir that would inundate the town site. Undaunted, citizens always managed to survive and rebuild, earning Ridgway the reputation as “the town that refused to die.”

Things started to improve in the 1960's. Construction of a new state highway to access Telluride made the Town a focal point as a gateway to the San Juan Mountains. The filming of two prominent Hollywood productions, *How the West was Won* (1962) and *True Grit* (1969), brought recognition to the community. Perhaps most importantly, the decision to relocate the planned reservoir north of the Town spared the Ridgway community from inundation, saving the Town and prompting a resurgence of growth beginning in the late 1970s. Construction of Ridgway Reservoir was completed in 1987, now comprising part of the beautiful Ridgway State Park offering abundant recreational opportunities for locals and visitors alike. Drawn by a combination of great location, good schools, and public amenities, and exhilarating outdoor-oriented lifestyle, the Town started to grow at a steady pace in the 1990s, surpassing for the first time its population of a century earlier.

Today we are an authentic, friendly, western Colorado small town, with beautiful parks, library, railroad museum, good restaurants, unique lodging, interesting shopping, and plenty of family-oriented events spread throughout the year. We are a certified Colorado Creative District through the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade and a Colorado Main Street Community through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. We are home to many thriving local businesses. Located at the crossroads of Highways 550 and 62 and surrounded by majestic peaks, we are a great jumping-off point for those traveling the San Juan Skyway – a 236-mile National Scenic and Historic Byway loop that boasts the most dramatic scenery in Colorado. Nearby Ridgway State Park offers great boating, camping, and RV amenities, and is conveniently accessed from town by foot or bicycle via the Uncompahgre RiverWay Trail. As true as it was in 1890, Ridgway today remains the “Gateway to the San Juan’s”.



## History of Dark Sky Preservation in Ridgway

With a town motto “Think Outside”, Ridgway residents have long embraced enjoyment and protection of our beautiful natural surroundings, including protection of our dark skies. The Ridgway Town Council passed our first Outdoor Lighting Ordinance over a quarter century ago, and later revisions strengthened those regulations. Dark sky protection is certainly not a new concept in Ridgway.



Fully-shielded lighting has been a requirement in Ridgway for over 20 years. In 2003, with strong support of a committee of Town Council members and the Town Manager, Ridgway replaced 100% of its energy-inefficient unshielded 175 W mercury vapor street lights with full-cutoff energy efficient GE high pressure sodium fixtures, felt to be the best option at that time. The town building inspector was directed to require all new construction use shielded fixtures. Town members assisted in an education campaign informing town residents of the benefits of night sky protection. Supportive articles began to appear in the local paper written by sympathetic newspaper staff members. Articles were published in the Telluride Watch, the New Yorker magazine, and in other local venues. Ridgway is located in Ouray County and in 2003, our county adopted an outdoor lighting regulation requiring fully shielded lighting.

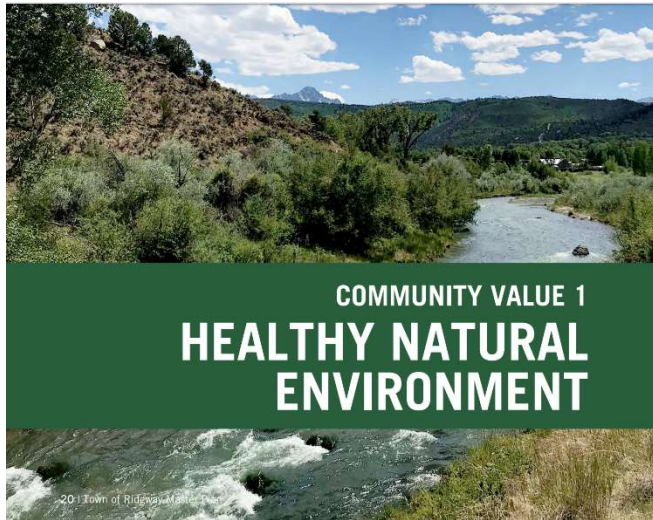
Over the next several years “How To” documents were developed to inform residents, new and old, about improving their non-compliant lights. Copies were made available at the Town Offices and the Land Use Office. The same information was written into the architectural guidelines of several subdivisions in unincorporated Ouray County and published on Home Association websites. Newly adopted covenants in some of the larger subdivisions eventually contained dark sky friendly requirements, and their architectural review committees began enforcement. Several educational star parties were held to reinforce the dark sky concept, and presentations for visitors and locals were made at nearby Ridgway State Park headquarters. Town members put together a fund that provided shields for mercury vapor fixtures owned by individuals/businesses. While individuals were encouraged to purchase the shields, if they were unable or unwilling, they were given shields for free.

## Ridgway Master Planning, 2018-2019

In 2018, Ridgway and its residents went through our periodic Master Planning process. Our Community Vision was captured in a short paragraph:

Ridgway is a vibrant, welcoming, and community-minded small town situated in a beautiful mountain valley. We are diverse in age, background, and economic means. We share a deep connection to the outdoors, the lifelong pursuit of learning, and our railroad, ranching, and creative cultures. We are committed to being economically and ecologically sustainable.





During this Master Planning process, a series of Community Values were identified with the first of these being a Healthy Natural Environment. Our Master Plan states:

Protecting both the scenic values and ecological functions of natural areas in and surrounding Ridgway through responsible environmental practices is something the community values strongly. Ridgway must grow in a way that is attuned to its natural environment to protect these valuable resources.

Under the value of Healthy Natural Environment, five key goals were identified. Our fourth goal is to:

Advocate for the efficient use of resources and sustainable practices that work to eliminate harmful impacts to the health of the community or natural environment.

And under this fourth environmental goal, town residents identified the following target:

**POLICY ENV-4.4: Dark Skies   Continue to prioritize efforts to reduce light pollution and enhance the appearance of the night sky.**

During this latest Master Planning process, a group of town residents identified the aim of pursuing International Dark Sky Accreditation as potentially the best way to continue to enhance and preserve our local night sky protections. These residents presented this goal to the Ridgway Town Council in March 2018, and their vision was enthusiastically and unanimously embraced. Since then, a group of town residents has been working with town staff, helping the town satisfy all IDA application requirements.

## Section 2.0 Letter of Nomination

At the April 2018 Ridgway Town Council meeting, several interested volunteers reviewed the requirements for International Dark Sky (IDA) Community designation and made a proposal that Ridgway pursue IDA Dark Sky Community designation. This proposal was an effort to build on Ridgway's historical support for dark sky preservation and to be formally recognized by IDA. The proposal won enthusiastic support by all of the Town Council members. Val Szwarc, lead coordinator of our group of volunteers who is a member of IDA and had worked with IDA on similar initiatives, sent a letter of nomination to IDA. That letter and the IDA response are printed below.

**From:** vszwarc@aol.com  
**Subject:** Ridgway Colorado IDA Designation as a Dark Sky Community  
**Date:** May 10, 2018 at 7:04 PM  
**To:** John Barentine john@darksky.org  
**Cc:** Dave Jones drdjic@gmail.com, Howard Greene howardjgreene@gmail.com, Jim Kennedy M.D. doctorj7@gmail.com, Rob Datsko robertdatsko@yahoo.com  
**Bcc:** Valentine Szwarc vszwarc@aol.com



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Hi John,

I left a voice mail on your office line this morning and as I indicated I am following up with the details.

As you may recall I have been working dark sky designation in Norwood Co and its surrounding area for the last year or two. Just recently one year of SQM measurements have been completed and I have analyzed the data for the Norwood area and have turned those QC'd results over to the Norwood Dark Sky group. 64 QC'd measurements for a number of sites in and around Norwood resulted in an average of 21.41 mag/arc sec from Mar 2017 thru Mar 2018. The sites a few miles out of town typically are in the 21.5-6 range and the in-town sites are typically 21.0- 21.3.

A few months ago a number of dark sky advocates in Ridgway, Co approached me about pursuing IDA Dark Sky Community Designation for Ridgway. I believe the Town is a perfect candidate since the town has taken steps over the last 10 to 20 years to preserve the night sky, and new town lighting was installed about two years ago that are all IDA compliant in terms of full cut off shielding, CCT 3000K and about 6000lumens/bulb, which are located at street intersections about 1-2 town blocks apart. In addition, I have been taking SQM measurements all within Town limits since Nov-Dec 2017 and have recorded readings of about 21.0 at Zenith in the center of town in the town park to readings recently as dark as 21.5 about 200ft from the HS parking lot away from the Lot lights (which I believe are IDA compliant(TBR)). Online remotely sensed dark sky maps indicate a very small green patch of light just north of town center, however I believe the online maps have a geo-registration error and the small green patch should be a bit south to over the intersection of US550 and Co 62 where (similar to Torrey Utah) two gas stations and State of Colorado intersection lighting are the culprits.

So over the last few months I along with a few key individuals have organized a group of dark sky advocates to initially assess Ridgway's potential for successful IDA designation as Dark Sky Community

Status according to community criteria. The results of that initial assessment are very positive as I have outlined below, and the Town of Ridgway is very interested in pursuing Dark Sky Community Designation.

1. In February 2018 I organized an exploratory meeting of a handful of dark sky advocates from Ridgway including the Mayor. The results of that exploratory meeting were positive, and the Mayor suggested taking a proposal to the Ridgway Town Council.
2. In March 2018 I along with Dave Jones and others briefed a proposal to a local citizen organization (Ridgway- Ouray Community Council (ROCC) - membership of 160+ strong, and got approval from the executive committee to open a new committee under the ROCC umbrella to pursue IDA designated Dark Sky Community for Ridgway). Dave and I are co-chairs of ROCC's Ridgway Dark Sky Committee (RDSC). This avenue was initiated so the Ridgway dark sky effort has some organization, governance processes, funding source, liability insurance coverage for public outreach events and star parties, and a large group of potential volunteers to help with the effort.
3. In April 2018 I briefed Ridgway Town Council the proposal for Ridgway's support in pursuing IDA designation as a Dark Sky Community. (a preliminary lighting ordinance update was reviewed by the town planning department manager in advance of the Town Council meeting). Town Council and the Mayor approved the Dark Sky initiative asking that the details of the lighting ordinance (LO) be finalized within the Planning Commission review process.
4. Currently, RDSC is working with the Ridgway Planning Commission on maturing an update to Ridgway's lighting ordinance. I and others have used your feedback to the Norwood effort, IDA's community guidelines, and other Dark Sky Community LO submissions from Torrey Ut, Sedona and Fountain Hills, AZ, and Westcliffe, Co as guidance in patterning Ridgway's update.
5. As an indicator of local enthusiasm RDSC easily organized its first public outreach event for June 2, 2018 and is coordinated as a joint Star Party along with the Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS) and the Ridgway State Park (RSP), which is only about 3miles north of Ridgway. It appears RSP may be interested in pursuing Dark Sky Park status as well? I, along with a number of other RDSC members are BCAS members so some synergies exist.



6. The local power cooperative San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) has completed a preliminary Town lighting inventory and believes all the Town of Ridgway owned street lighting is IDA compliant but we are still researching this. Some mercury vapor lighting exists but is privately owned and SMPA has mentioned the possibility of offering incentives (similar to its soon to be announced GreenLights program) to retrofit the MV lighting with IDA compliant fixtures and lamps.
7. As I mentioned above SQM measurements are ongoing and I intend to use a measurement plan and procedures similar to the rigor that I defined for Norwood and which I sent you a review copy. If you wish, I could send you a copy of Ridgway's SQM measurement plan.

As far as I am aware RDSC members Val Szwarc, Jim Kennedy, and Rob Datsko are also IDA members, plus I am coordinating activities with BCAS and Black Canyon National Park, who have offered assistance with Ridgway's Dark Sky designation pursuit.

Let me know if you need additional information and if IDA requires a formal request/nomination letter from the Town of Ridgway.

Thank you for your consideration,

Val

Valentine Szwarc, RDSC Co-Chair  
PO Box 438  
109 Uncompahgre Ct  
Ridgway, Co 81432  
610 662-7605 mobile  
[vszwarc@aol.com](mailto:vszwarc@aol.com)

**From: John Barentine**

[john@darksky.org](mailto:john@darksky.org)

**Subject:** Re: Ridgway Colorado IDA Designation as a Dark Sky Community

**Date:** May 23, 2018 at 2:49 PM **To:** VSZWARC@aol.com

**Cc:** Dave Jones [drdjic@gmail.com](mailto:drdjic@gmail.com), Howard Greene [howardjgreene@gmail.com](mailto:howardjgreene@gmail.com), Jim Kennedy M.D. [doctorj7@gmail.com](mailto:doctorj7@gmail.com), Rob Datsko [robertdatsko@yahoo.com](mailto:robertdatsko@yahoo.com)

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Hi Val (et al.),

As you probably figured out when you got my out-of-office reply, I was recently overseas (and largely without network access) for almost the first three weeks of this month. I'm back in this office this week, and starting to make my way through a mountain of unread mail that accumulated in my absence. Thanks for your patience.

I'm familiar with Ridgway, as it's in a part of Colorado in which my family vacationed for several years while I was growing up. Although I imagine it's grown a bit in the time since, I remember it well. I would be happy to help you, and the others you copied on this message, achieve an International Dark Sky Community designation for the town.

You're off to a great start — many of the items on the list in your mail are things I would have recommended that you do to get the effort underway. I presume, too that, you and the others have familiarized yourself with the current program guidelines? The document is always available on our website:

[http://darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdfger/IDSC\\_Guidelines\\_Oct2015\\_9.pdf](http://darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdfger/IDSC_Guidelines_Oct2015_9.pdf)

Use these as your road map for the remainder of the nomination process. Although we'll soon roll out a new version of these guidelines, the changes will not apply to you. You're 'locked in' to the current (2015) version for the remainder of the project, provided that you make steady progress on the application.

We don't require any formal communication from the Town regarding interest in applying; your email is sufficient. I've opened a file on Ridgway that I'll copy all our correspondence to, so that we have a record of when you enquired.

Please let me know as you have questions or concerns. Otherwise, I'll leave you to work at your own pace. I'd appreciate if you would check in with me every so often, just so that I know how things are going and that you continue to make progress toward a completed application. Thanks.

Best regards to all,

John

**John C. Barentine, Ph.D.** | Director of Conservation  
International Dark-Sky Association  
3223 N 1st Ave  
Tucson, AZ 85719-2103 USA  
+ 1 (520) 347 6363  
[john@darksky.org](mailto:john@darksky.org)  
[www.Darksky.org](http://www.Darksky.org)

*"Though my soul may set in darkness, it will rise in perfect light;*

*I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night."*

-From "The Old Astronomer" by Sarah Wil

## **Section 3.0 Town of Ridgway Lighting Ordinance and Recent Projects**

After Town Council approval of the Dark Sky Community designation pursuit in April 2018, Town staff started the ordinance updating process and review with the Town's Planning Commission. The resultant update was coordinated with IDA's Dark Places Program Manager Adam Dalton to ensure compliance with IDA 2015 Community Guidelines (reference Appendix 3.0). Town Council approved and adopted the updated Lighting ordinance on September 18, 2019, and it became effective on October 18, 2019. The updated lighting regulations are provided in section 3.1 below. The ordinance can also be found on the [Town's website](#).



## **ORDINANCE NO. 2019-06**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 6, SECTION 5 OF THE RIDGWAY MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING OUTDOOR LIGHTING REGULATIONS.**

**WHEREAS,** The Town of Ridgway established dark skies-oriented regulations for outdoor lighting via Ordinance 3-1997; and

**WHEREAS,** the Ridgway Town Council amended the Outdoor Lighting Regulations by Ordinance 4-2017 that provide for appropriate illumination of public art on public property that respects the “dark skies” desire of the community while providing for some illumination of public art in public places; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2019 Ridgway Master Plan contains the following:

Policy ENV-4.4 Dark Skies: Continue to prioritize efforts to reduce light pollution and enhance the appearance of the night sky.

Action ENV-4f: Continue to protect our dark skies as a valuable community resource; and

**WHEREAS,** glare and light pollution can result in safety concerns, diminish the ability to view the night sky, and impact community character; and

**WHEREAS,** the Ridgway Town Council desires to pursue certification through the International Dark-Sky Association to become an International Dark Sky Community; and

**WHEREAS,** the Ridgway Planning Commission reviewed previous drafts of edits to the Outdoor Lighting Regulations at the March 5<sup>th</sup>, June 25<sup>th</sup>, and July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meetings which provided opportunity for public feedback and input; and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Ridgway has invested, and continues to invest, in protecting the important dark sky resource.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO,** as follows:

**SECTION 1. RIDGWAY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 6, SECTION 5 IS REPEALED AND REPLACED AS FOLLOWS:**

**6-5-1 GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

(A) All non-exempt outdoor light fixtures and illuminating devices permanently or temporarily installed outdoors, including but not limited to devices to illuminate signs, shall meet the following requirements:

(1) They shall be shielded so no light rays are emitted at angles which will allow the light to pass directly off of the premises appurtenant to the fixture.

(2) They shall be shielded so that all light rays are emitted by the installed fixture at angles below the horizontal plane.

(3) All fixtures designed to illuminate signs or structures shall be mounted above the area of the sign or structure to be illuminated.

(4) Blinking, flashing, rotating or moving lights are prohibited.

(5) Correlated color temperature (CCT) is limited to 3000 kelvin per fixture.

(6) The following lumen limits are established to prevent over lighting and are not intended to be achieved. Each site should use the lowest amount of lumens needed for the site to provide for safety and functionality.

(a) Single-Family Residential Sites shall be limited to 5,100 lumens. Single-Family Residential Sites that include an accessory dwelling unit shall be limited to 6,500 lumens. Each lighting fixture shall be limited to 850 lumens.

(b) Multi-Family Residential Sites, Mixed-Use Sites, and Non-Residential Sites shall be limited to 25,000 lumens per net acre plus 2,000 lumens per unit beyond the first. Each lighting fixture shall be limited to 1,500 lumens.

(7) Lighting for all non-residential uses shall be extinguished one hour after close of business unless there is a public safety hazard that is best mitigated by the use of lighting. Lighting intended for security purposes shall use Adaptive Controls.

(8) If any of the above are in conflict with the Town building codes, adopted pursuant to RMC 6-1, the regulations of the adopted building code shall apply.

(B) The following are exempt from the provisions of Subsection (A).

(1) Lights used to illuminate athletic fields or other community special event areas. Such lights shall be turned off one hour after the conclusion of the event and should be designed or placed to minimize light falling beyond the area in use.

(2) Signs which are illuminated by interior light sources, such as neon signs,

provided such signs are lit only during the property owner's business hours.

(3) Official traffic control devices and lights owned and operated by or pursuant to proper authority of the United States of America, the State of Colorado or any of their agencies, and such other lights as are specifically required by federal or state law.

(4) Official traffic control lights owned and operated by the Town of Ridgway.

(5) Repealed by Ordinance 16-2006

(6) Lawful vehicle lights.

(7) Repealed by Ordinance 10-2007

(8) Holiday lights. Holiday lights should only be in use from November 15 to January 31.

(9) Repealed by Ordinance 2-2002

(10) Artwork that is outdoors and on public property. Such artwork shall receive a permit by the Town of Ridgway prior to installation. Such artwork shall be public and accessible to all people and may be illuminated, pursuant to the following:

(a) Artwork shall not contain lighting that exceeds 500 lumens within the entire structure, nor more than 2500 degrees kelvin.

(b) All public art that is illuminated shall include a dimmer and timer to aid the compliance with the Dark Skies Association's Outdoor Lighting Requirements, and shall have the ability to be automatically turned off. In any event such lighting shall be automatically turned off by 10 p.m. nightly.

(c) No structure may contain lighting that is cast upward or outward, but may be diffused in a way such that the lighting emits a soft glow.

(d) All structures shall be lit internally.

(e) All illuminated public art is subject to review and approval by Town staff for compliance with these regulations.

#### (C) Public Outdoor Lighting

(1) New public lighting, owned and operated by the Town of Ridgway, including

street lights, walkway lights, external buildings lights, holiday lights, and other lights to ensure safety, shall be allowed as recommended by the Town Manager in situations where a public health hazard exists which can only be mitigated by artificial light at night and shall be in compliance with Subsection (A).

(2) Adaptive Controls or curfews shall be employed in all new public outdoor lighting installations, ~~except for new street lighting installed according to C(1) above and required for public safety.~~

(3) All Town owned lighting shall comply with the requirements of Section 6-5 within five years from the effective date of this ordinance.

#### **6-5-2 NONCONFORMING LIGHTS.**

(A) Lights which were lawfully existing and in use at the time they became nonconforming with the requirements of this Section 6-5 by virtue of the initial adoption of this Section, subsequent amendment to this Section or by annexation into the Town, may continue to be used and operated subject to the limitations of this Section.

(B) The right to operate a lawful nonconforming light shall terminate upon any of the following:

(1) Replacement of the light fixture.

(2) Non-use of the light fixture for a period of six months.

(3) Repealed by Ordinance 16-2006

(4) Damage to the light fixture so that the cost of repair is 50% or more of the cost to replace it with a conforming fixture.

(C) The right to exceed the lumen limits established in RMC 6-5-1 as a lawful nonconforming site shall terminate upon any of the following:

(1) Replacement of 50% or more of the light fixtures on the site.

(2) Damage to the light fixtures so that the cost of repair is 50% or more of the cost to replace them with conforming fixtures.

(D) No alteration may be made to lighting on a site which would increase the amount or degree of the nonconformity.

#### **6-5-3 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.**



(A) The provisions of this Section shall be administered by the building official or other authorized Town officer or employee.

(B) It shall be unlawful to violate any provision of this Section.

(C) Any continuing violation of this Section is hereby declared to be nuisance, which may be abated by the Town in any lawful manner, or enjoined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(D) No building permit or occupancy permit shall be issued for work which has noncomplying light fixtures.

#### 6-5-4 APPEALS AND VARIANCES.

(A) Any person aggrieved by an interpretation of this Section or decision of the Town made in the administration of this Section, may appeal the interpretation or decision to the Board of Appeals pursuant to the review procedure of Section 6-1-5 of the Ridgway Municipal Code upon payment of a \$250.00 application fee.

(B) (1) Any person may apply for a variance to the Planning Commission from the provisions of this Section upon payment of the \$250.00 application fee in accordance with the review procedure of Section 7-3-18 of the Ridgway Municipal Code.

(2) The Planning Commission may grant a variance only upon a determination that the following criteria are met:

(a) The variance will be consistent with the public health, safety and welfare.

(b) The variance is justified by unreasonable hardship not created by the activities of the applicant or strict compliance is unfeasible.

(c) The variance will be substantially consistent with the purposes of this Section to avoid nuisances to others, preserve the ability to observe the night sky, conserve energy, reduce glare, promote traffic and pedestrian safety, preserve the small town character of Ridgway and promote the Town's master plan.

(d) The variance will not compromise any Dark Skies Certification, if such certification is in place at the time the variance is requested.

#### 6-5-5 PURPOSE

To protect the dark sky resource, maintain nighttime visibility, minimize light pollution and glare, promote energy conservation, promote traffic and pedestrian safety, help mitigate wildlife sleep and mitigation related issues, and preserve the small-town character of the Town.

#### **6-5-6 DEFINITIONS**

- (A) Adaptive Controls: devices such as timers, motion-sensors and light-sensitive switches used to actively regulate the emission of light from light fixtures.
- (B) Mixed-Use Site: an undivided or combination of undivided lots under one or more ownership or lease agreement used for a mixture of commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential uses.
- (C) Multi-Family Residential Site: an undivided or combination of undivided lots under one or more ownership or lease arrangements occupied by multiple dwelling units.
- (D) Non-Residential Site: an undivided or combination of undivided lots under one or more ownership or lease agreement used for commercial, industrial, or institutional uses.
- (E) Single-Family Residential Site: an undivided or combination of undivided lots under one ownership occupied by a single-family residential structure and related accessory structures.

\* \* \*

#### **SECTION 2. ORDINANCE EFFECT**

All Ordinances of the Town, or parts thereof, inconsistent or in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, replaced and superseded to the extent only of such inconsistency or conflict.

#### **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY**

The Provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and the invalidity of any section, phrase, clause or portion of this Ordinance as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of this Ordinance.

#### **SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after adoption.

#### **SECTION 5. PUBLIC HEARING.**

A public hearing on this Ordinance was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019, in the Town Council Chambers, 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, CO 81432.

INTRODUCED, READ AND REFERRED to public hearing before the Town Council of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO, A HOME  
RULE MUNICIPALITY

By:   
JOHN CLARK, Mayor

ATTEST:   
PAM KRAFT, Town Clerk

HEARD AND FINALLY ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO, A HOME  
RULE MUNICIPALITY

By:   
JOHN CLARK, Mayor

ATTEST:   
PAM KRAFT, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form:

  
BO JAMES NERLIN, Town Attorney

## Section 3.2 Town of Ridgway Projects Preserving Ridgway Dark Skies

As noted at the outset of this application, Ridgway has had over 20 years of town regulations designed to help preserve our night skies, including our Outdoor Lighting Code has specified that all outdoor lights – with no exceptions – be fully shielded. Our SQM measurements speak to those past successes. Despite our work in protecting our night skies, we still have work to accomplish.

Our recent Colorado 62 Ramp Up Ridgway project, described in Section 3.3, replaced 35 streetlights in the heart of town with IDA compliant LED lights. It also installed many attractive, fully-shielded pathway bollards that allow safe night time navigation while preserving our night skies. We have identified 24 other streetlights in town that, while fully-shielded, exceed our 3000 Kelvin limit. Staff from San Miguel Power Association - SMPA, our local electricity co-op, have estimated total replacement costs to be \$7200. They have also estimated that the cost of each of these replacement LEDs would be recouped within three years by the energy cost savings. SMPA staff anticipate that they will be able to give the town \$2500 in grants/rebates for this project and the Ridgway Ouray Community Council (ROCC) has awarded the town a \$500 challenge grant toward this project. Our Town Council understands the town's obligation to replace these 24 streetlights within the next 5 years and have committed to that action as part of this application process (and as part of our efforts to lower our greenhouse gas emissions by saving electricity). Planning and budgeting for streetlight replacements will be considered during the 2020 budget season and beyond until completed.

Given the small size of our town, the time of year, and how recently our Outdoor Lighting Ordinance was updated, we do not have multiple new building completions to highlight. However, developers have gotten the word. We did have a group report on the planned restoration of the Town's old fire house at the December, 2019 Town Council meeting. In their proposal, they stated:

### ***Energy Efficiency/Light Pollution:***

*Conservation, energy efficiency and a low carbon footprint will be high priorities in relation to heating, cooling, lighting and water usage. In evening hours, the project's energy management system will mitigate light pollution as much as possible so as to adhere to Ridgway's Dark Sky regulations. The developer will seek the highest LEEDS designation obtainable that overall project economics will allow.*





We have a group of long-committed community members who have worked with Ridgway residents and businesses over the years, guiding those in our community where lights were installed that do not conform to our building codes.

In 2014, one of those individuals worked with a local apartment complex. He approached the owner of this property with a cost saving plan to replace the 12 carport overhead light fixtures. Each fixture used two six-foot fluorescent tubes, consumed 200 watts per hour, and produced a tremendous amount of light pollution. The plan was implemented, and 12 fixtures, each using just one 8-watt, 60-watt equivalent soft white bulb were installed. With the fixtures positioned so the bulbs faced the back of the carports, and reduced lumens, the amount of light pollution was dramatically reduced. The new carport lighting was fully adequate for all needs including safety. Energy consumption went from 4800 watts per hour to only 96, with significant energy cost savings and reduced carbon footprint.

In 2015 a local church installed four new flush wall mounted exterior security lights. These were not shielded, and were therefore not in compliance with Ridgway's existing Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. The Town of Ridgway's building inspector was notified and he contacted this party. The fixtures were replaced with fully shielded units. A year later, that same center built a large new building and expanded their parking lot. Several new exterior lights on the building and parking lot were not compliant. The building inspector contacted the developer, the non-compliant lights were retro-fitted with shielding, and the excess light pollution was avoided.

In 2017 a Ridgway Restaurant on Highway 550 installed an exceptionally bright flashing LED sign in their window. One of our local night sky protectors politely spoke with the manager and explained that flashing signs are a violation of our Town ordinance, and that we are working to preserve our beautiful night sky for residents and visitors. They kindly switched the sign to continuous mode, and that extremely bright sign was soon replaced with one that caused very little light pollution.

Last year in our Solar Ranch subdivision, a new resident installed a non-shielded outdoor light on his back porch. Officers of that Home Owners Association (HOA) politely informed him of the Ridgway Outdoor Lighting Ordinance requirement for shielded lighting and the light was replaced or reoriented. For a local house being built with non-conforming lights on the garage, our building inspector was notified and the builder corrected the lighting, installing full-cutoff fixtures. Another Ridgway subdivision now uses a letter from their HOA to residents whose outdoor lighting is found to be non-conforming (next page).

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE VISTA TERRACE COMMUNITY  
RE: Town of Ridgway Dark Sky Ordinance

As a reminder to all the residents of the Vista Terrace Estates community, both new and established. The Town of Ridgway and the county of Ouray have declared our region to be in accordance with a Dark Sky Initiative that has been established in many other communities around the country.

As such, any new building or remodel of existing structures must adhere to the masking or shielding of any outside lighting. This type of shielding will insure that no lighting will extend out horizontally from the source but will, instead, be directed downward toward the ground. In addition, it is recommended that all outside porch lighting be either turned off at night or placed on a motion sensor to minimize ambient light in our community.

Thank you for your adherence to these requests.

Sincerely,

Vista Terrace Architectural Board.

Our local electric company, San Miguel Power Association, has been a very helpful ally in our efforts to preserve our night sky. In the past year they published two educational articles about protecting the night sky in their monthly newsletters mailed to all customers, sharing IDA tips on how to reduce light pollution at your home or business. They even provide information and grants to install new efficient fully shielded light fixtures.

As a result of local efforts to educate the public on the value of preserving our stunning night sky, we are seeing more local interest and awareness. We are seeing businesses voluntarily reduce their light pollution on their own. For example, in 2018 a local medical clinic stopped illuminating their large exterior sign at night. In 2019, a local real estate firm installed fully recessed downward facing lighting above their entry way porch, and de-activated four glare producing exterior wall lights on that porch.

We believe that IDA certification (the process of gaining certification, the recognition itself, and the steps for maintaining that certification) has and will promote better education of our local residents on the benefits of dark sky protections and will make us all prouder of our starry sky heritage. In turn, we anticipate this will lower the number of residents and businesses who mistakenly install non-conforming outdoor lighting and will make those with non-conforming lights less resistant to corrections.

## Section 3.3 Town of Ridgway Colorado 62 Ramp Up Ridgway Project – Updates Ridgway Streetlights and Adds Wayfinding Bollards

In 2016, Ridgway and the Colorado Department of Transportation began construction on a two-year project, labelled the RAMP UP Ridgway project, to improve the Highway 62 corridor through Town and the downtown Historic Business District. This major project included hard-surfacing streets, pedestrian sidewalks, street lights, storm drainage, night-sky friendly decorative lighting, landscaping, and furnishings (benches, artwork, trash/recycle receptacles, low-level lighting elements).



As part of this project, special emphasis was placed on installing night-sky friendly lighting elements. Our old high-pressure sodium streetlights were removed. Twenty-five full-cutoff streetlights were installed using 3000 Kelvin 60W LED bulbs, each emitting 6260 lumens. (see spec sheet)



In addition, 66 fully shielded, 42-inch-tall, 10-watt, 3000 K pathway bollards (see spec sheet) were installed throughout main pathways within the Town, providing night-time safety using low-level night-sky friendly lighting.



This project not only lowered town electricity bills; it delivered more pleasing light that is well directed to the areas needing that illumination, making it both safer and more pleasant to walk or drive around our town at night.





## Ridgway LED Streetlights Spec Sheet

<p>7 FEET DIMMING CONTROL LEADS (GREY-, VIOLET+)</p> <p>7 FEET POWER LEADS (BLACK, WHITE, GREEN)</p> <p>5 INCH DIMMING CONTROL LEADS (GREY-, VIOLET+)</p> <p>5 INCH POWER LEADS (BLACK, WHITE, GREEN)</p> <p>1 1/4" N.P.T. x 2" L. EXTERNAL THREAD</p> <p>1/4"-20 ST. STL. SOC. SET SCREW</p> <p>21 1/2"</p> <p>26" Ø</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">REV.</th> <th style="width: 50%;">ALTERATION</th> <th style="width: 20%;">DATE</th> <th style="width: 20%;">BY</th> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>7 FEET POWER AND CONTROL LEADS ADDED.</td> <td>05/15/16</td> <td>A.A.</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>LUMINAIRE SPECIFICATIONS</b>            CATALOGUE NO.: K208-P4FL-III-60(SSL)            -7030-120:277V</p> <p>QUANTITY:            OPTICAL SYSTEM: FLAT ARRAY, FLAT LENS            IES CLASS.: TYPE III            WATTAGE: 60W            SOLID STATE LIGHTING            SERIES: 7030            LINE VOLTAGE: 120:277V            CCT/DIODE: 3000K/HE7            PAINT: SMOOTH BLACK            OPTIONS: DIMMABLE DRIVER</p> <p><b>OPTIONS</b>            QUICK DISCONNECT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PLEASE SELECT ONE            TERMINAL BLOCK <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>7 FEET POWER LEADS (BLACK, WHITE, GREEN) AND 7 FEET DIMMING CONTROL LEADS (GREY, VIOLET) TO BE SUPPLIED.</p> <p>SEE WIRING DIAGRAM FOR SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.</p> <p>CUSTOMER APPROVAL &amp; DATE: _____</p>	REV.	ALTERATION	DATE	BY	A	7 FEET POWER AND CONTROL LEADS ADDED.	05/15/16	A.A.
REV.	ALTERATION	DATE	BY						
A	7 FEET POWER AND CONTROL LEADS ADDED.	05/15/16	A.A.						

**NOTE:**

- 1) UNDERSIDE OF SPINNING TO BE PAINTED SAME COLOR AS REST OF LUMINAIRE
- 2) PIPE SEALER TO BE USED ON ALL N.P.T. THREADED COMPONENTS

CUSTOMER ORDER No:	<p>King Luminaire • StressCrete • Est. 1953</p> <p><b>STRESSCRETE GROUP</b></p>	<p><b>Manufacturing Locations:</b></p> <p>Burlington, Ontario 1-800-268-7809</p> <p>Northport, Alabama 1-800-435-6563</p> <p>Atchison, Kansas 1-800-837-1024</p> <p>Jefferson, Ohio 1-800-268-7809</p>										
KING U.S. ORDER No:	PROJECT/CUSTOMER: RIDGWAY MAIN STREET											
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">DRAWN BY:</td> <td style="width: 10%;">AT:</td> <td style="width: 20%;">CHECKED BY:</td> <td style="width: 20%;">DATE:</td> <td style="width: 30%;">REVISION:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VISHAL V.</td> <td>SC1</td> <td>T. Q.</td> <td>08/31/16</td> <td>A</td> </tr> </table>	DRAWN BY:	AT:	CHECKED BY:	DATE:	REVISION:	VISHAL V.	SC1	T. Q.	08/31/16	A	DRAWING NUMBER: A15956-1
DRAWN BY:	AT:	CHECKED BY:	DATE:	REVISION:								
VISHAL V.	SC1	T. Q.	08/31/16	A								
	APPROV/MFG. DWG.											

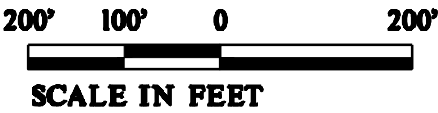
TOWN OF RIDGWAY  
BOLLARDS  
100% CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS  
FEBRUARY 29TH, 2016

SHEET INDEX		LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT/ PRIME DESIGN CONSULTANT
CV	COVER	DHM Design
L1	BOLLARD LOCATIONS	1309 E 3rd Ave, Room 23
D1-D2	BOLLARD DETAILS	Durango, CO 81301
		(970) 385-4219

- GENERAL NOTES:
1. CONTRACTOR TO SUBMIT A FULL-SIZE PROTOTYPE BOLLARD OF EACH STYLE TO THE TOWN FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF BOLLARDS. THE PROTOTYPE SHALL BE FULLY FUNCTIONAL FOR OUTDOOR TESTING. PROVIDE BLUE ACRYLIC AND GREEN STAINED GLASS FOR CIRCLE CUTOUTS IN PROTOTYPES -CITY TO DETERMINE WHICH MATERIAL SHALL BE UTILIZED.
  2. CONTRACTOR TO SUPPLY CDOT'S CONTRACTOR WITH BOLLARDS AND BASE PLATE ASSEMBLY.
  3. COORDINATE WITH THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY ON THE TIMEFRAME IN WHICH THE CDOT CONTRACTOR WILL NEED THE BASE PLATE ASSEMBLY



1 BOLLARD LOCATIONS  
CV



SCALE: 1"=200'

REUSE OF DOCUMENT  
This document is the property of DHM Design Corp. The ideas and design incorporated on this document is an instrument of professional service and shall not be used for any other project without written authorization of DHM Design Corp.

Streetscape Bollards  
Town of Ridgway, CO

PROJECT NUMBER: DATE  
02/29/2016  
DESIGNED: KF  
DRAWING: CW  
CHECKED: KF  
REVISIONS:

JOB DESCRIPTION:  
Bid Documents

SHEET TITLE:  
BOLLARD SET

SHEET NUMBER:  
CV  
SHEET \_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_

REUSE OF DOCUMENT

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Streetscape Bollards  
Town of Ridgway, CO

PROJECT NUMBER: DATE: 02/29/2016

DESIGNED: KF  
DRAWN: CW  
CHECKED: KF

REVISIONS:

JOB DESCRIPTION:  
Bid Documents

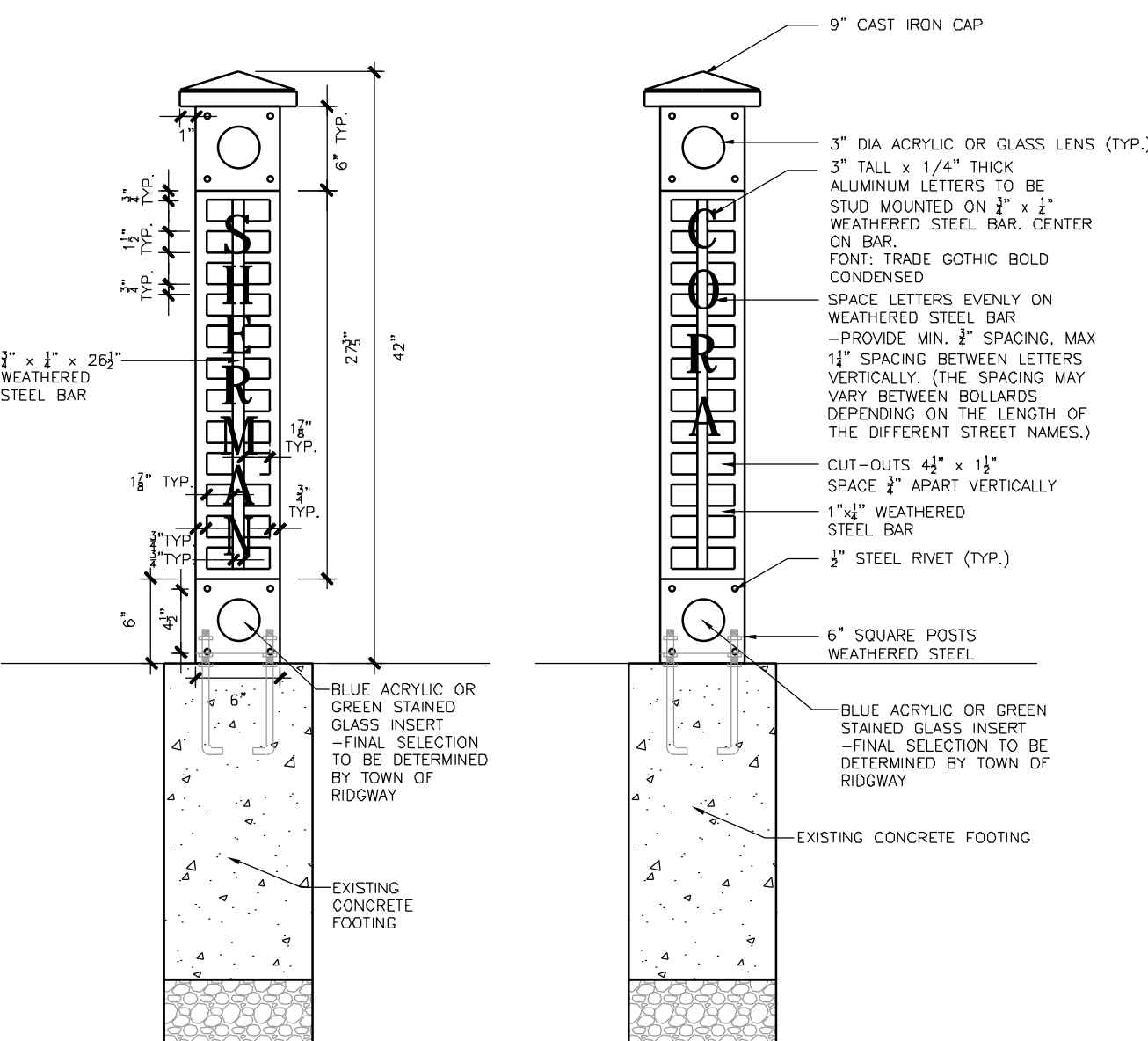
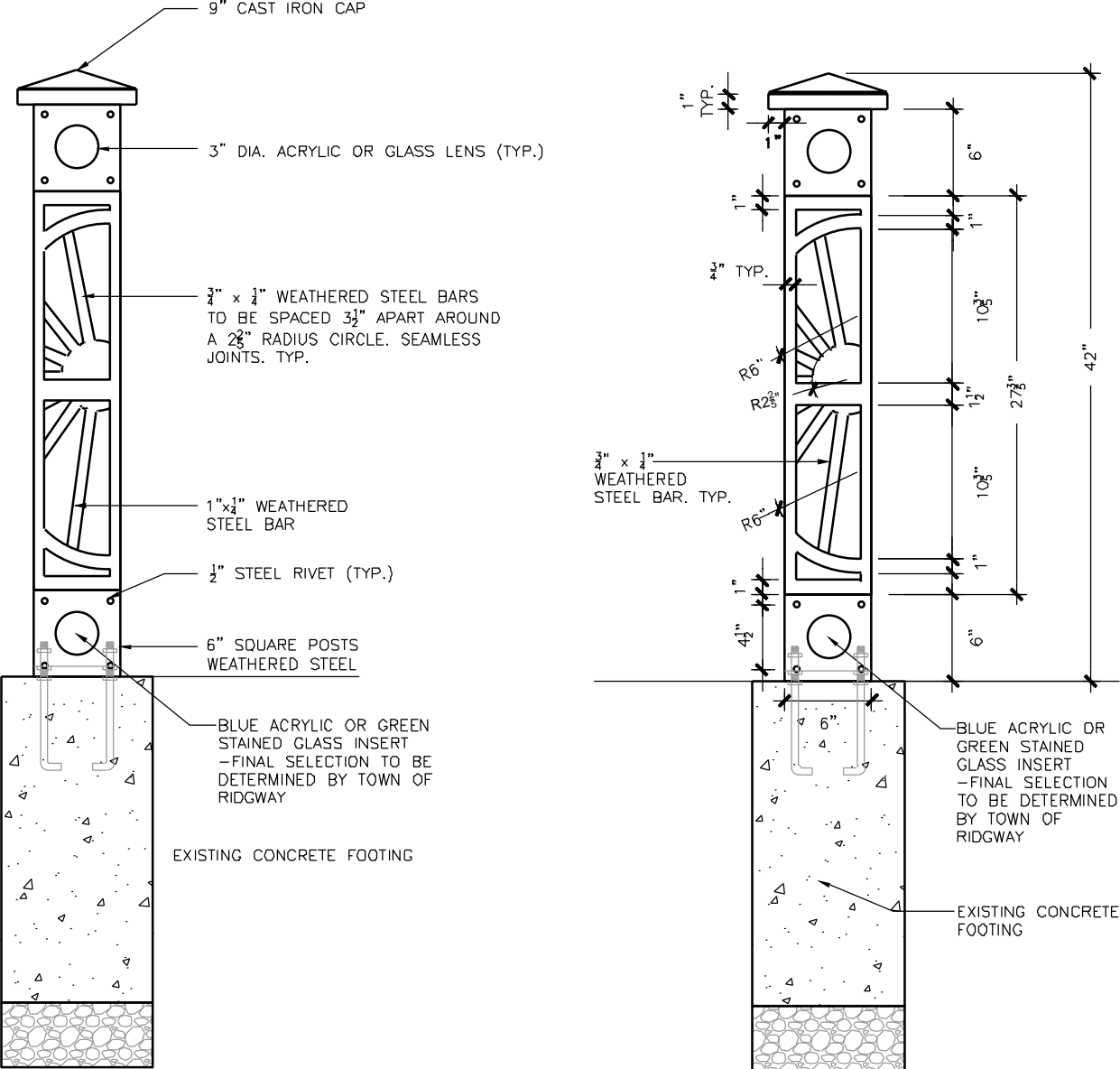
SHEET TITLE:

BOLLARD  
DETAILS

SHEET NUMBER:

D1

SHEET \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_

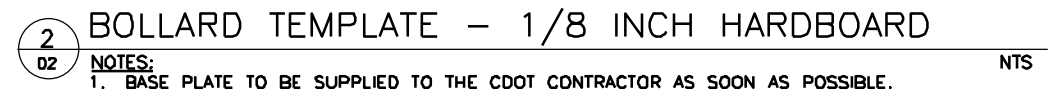
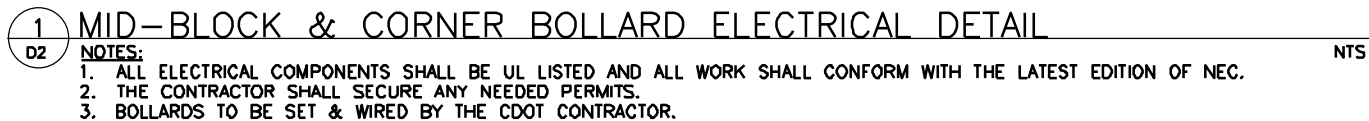


1 MID-BLOCK BOLLARD  
QTY: (48) MID-BLOCK BOLLARDS  
NOTE: COORDINATE WITH CDOT CONCRETE CONTRACTOR & TOWN OF RIDGWAY ON ANCHOR BOLT PATTERN. BOLLARD CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE BOLTS TO CDOT CONTRACTOR.

2 CORNER BOLLARD  
QTY: (18)  
NOTES:  
1. STREET NAME ON ALL FOUR SIDES TO CORRESPOND WITH PARALLEL STREET (SIMILAR TO STREET SIGNS.)  
2. COORDINATE WITH CDOT CONCRETE CONTRACTOR & TOWN OF RIDGWAY ON ANCHOR BOLT PATTERN. BOLLARD CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE BOLTS TO CDOT CONTRACTOR.

Consult with the Town on  
Street Names to be used for  
each corner bollard.





### Section 3



## Section 4.0 Community Education, Outreach Activities, Local Media Coverage, Community Support

Ridgway's commitment to dark sky preservation and education is demonstrated by a number of comprehensive educational opportunities. Section 4.1 highlights a Community Brochure that summarizes how local citizens and businesses can keep Ridgway's skies dark and stars bright. This brochure demonstrates the Town's commitment to public education. Section 4.2 summarizes the comprehensive outreach events, activities, and other opportunities organized and held by ROCC's Dark Sky Committee since early 2018. Section 4.3 Lists Media coverage and finally, Section 4.4 provides a sampling of community support as documented via a number of key Support Letters.

### 4.1 Town of Ridgway's Community Brochure

**Losing the night**  
Where to find the last pristine skies in America



Source: Falchi et al., 2019

THE WASHINGTON POST

**Examples of Compliant Outdoor Lighting**



**Wall Sconce**  
Top and sides fully shielded, bulb recessed.



**Wall Tube Lantern**  
Top and sides fully shielded, bulb recessed.



**Landscape & Garden Paths**  
Illuminate close to ground with low fixtures shielded on top and all sides, recessed bulb.

**Keeping Ridgway Skies Dark and the Stars Bright**



Gary Ratcliff, Ourayimage.com

Photos before and during the 2003 Northeast blackout, a massive power outage that affected 55 million people (photos by Todd Carlson)

Before



After



**Resources**

Town of Ridgway Municipal Code, 6-5 Outdoor Lighting Regulations:  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/ridgway/ridgway-municipal-code>

International Dark-Sky Association:  
[www.darksky.org/](http://www.darksky.org/)

**Contact**

Town of Ridgway  
201 N. Railroad St.  
970.626.5308

**What Can You Do?**

For decades, the Ridgway community and the Town have been committed to preserving our rare dark skies. Your actions are important.





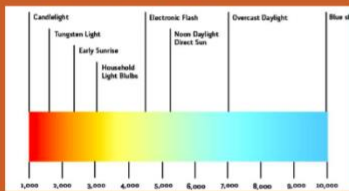
IDA  
INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

## Benefits of Dark-Sky Compliant Lights

- Shielded, compliant lights produce no glare and are better security lights.
- Low-wattage fluorescent and LED bulbs use less energy and reduce electricity cost.
- Low-wattage lights produce less heat, another environmental benefit.

## Understanding Terms

Kelvin: a way to describe the light appearance or temperature.



Lumen: light output or brightness

All lighting packaging provides information about lumens and Kelvin.

## Why do Dark Skies Matter?

- ★ Fewer and fewer places can see the beauty of the night sky that is here.
- ★ Light pollution decreases darkness of the night sky.
- ★ The biological rhythms of most species have evolved to depend on natural cycles of light and dark.
- ★ Unneeded lighting wastes electricity.
- ★ Lower your carbon footprint, and enjoy the night sky!



## How Can You Reduce Light Pollution?

See Ridgway Municipal Code 6-5, *Outdoor Lighting Regulation*, on the Town's website for more details.

- ★ Prevent light trespass to the sky and neighboring properties by shielding the light such that it does not pass off the premises that need lighting and is directed below the horizontal plane.



- ★ Use bulbs no brighter than necessary, no more than 3,000 Kelvins.
- ★ Use outdoor lights only where and when needed; use timers and motion sensors when possible.
  - Single family homes and homes with ADUs are limited to 5,100 and 6,500 lumens respectively. Each fixture is limited to 850 lumens.
  - Multi-family residential sites, mixed-use sites, and non-residential sites are limited to 25,000 lumens per net acre plus 2,000 lumens per unit beyond the first unit. Each fixture is limited to 1,500 lumens.
- ★ Turn off lighting for non-residential uses one hour after close of business, unless needed for safety.
- ★ All legal lighting operating before Oct 18, 2019 may continue to operate until changed.

## 4.2 Outreach Activities



Star Party at Ridgway State Park, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 (Photo courtesy of Joyce Tanihara (BCAS))

Ridgway’s outreach events over the last two years included two Dark Sky-themed Star Parties organized by ROCC’s Ridgway Dark Sky Committee (RDSC) in 2018 and one in 2019. These events were held at Ridgway State Park, located three miles north of Ridgway. The events were jointly hosted by RDSC, the Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS), and Ridgway State Park (RSP).

The 2018 Star Parties were on June 2nd and September 29th, with the 2019 event on May 25th. Fortunately, weather cooperated on all three events, and the sky was essentially cloud-free, showcasing the star-filled skies of the surrounding area near Ridgway. The agenda of these Dark Sky-themed Star Parties started inside at the RSP Visitor Center with multimedia PowerPoint presentations on Dark Sky preservation activities in Ridgway (reference appendix 4.1). This was followed by an Astronomy “101” discussion led by Bryan Cashion, President of BCAS, outlining what can be seen through a number of available telescopes and binoculars that evening. Once the evening became dark enough to see at least planets, the event moved outdoors for viewing through telescopes provided by members of RDSC and BCAS.

The PowerPoint presentations included steps that can be taken to ensure exterior lighting on homes and businesses is Dark Sky friendly. Attendance at all three events was impressive at about 55 to 65 persons of all ages. An added benefit of hosting the Star Parties at RSP is that attendance includes campers from



across Colorado and in some cases out-of-state visitors, providing the opportunity for outreach beyond the immediate Ridgway area.



As can be seen from the images above from the Star Party events, our star-filled sky is impressive with no light domes on the horizon from about 20 degrees (NNE) azimuth through south and all the way to about 300 degrees (NW). The Town of Montrose, about 20-25 miles to the north from Ridgway State Park, provides a small light dome that is visible with the naked eye perhaps 20 degrees elevation above the horizon to the north. Zenith SQM readings during all three star parties were in the 21.4 to 21.65 range, which were taken by RDSC and BCAS SQM-L units.



Two additional outreach events by ROCC's RDSC were held in early 2019. On January 16, 2019 at a Black Canyon Astronomical Society meeting, RDSC member Val Szwarc, and Creighton Wood from Norwood's Dark Sky group, presented "Dark Sky Preservation in Western Colorado". Then at Ridgway's [Sherbino Theatre](#) on April 6, 2019, during International Dark Sky Week, ROCC's RDSC presented a showing of the documentary "Saving The Dark" plus astrophotography and nightscapes by BCAS taken from Western Colorado. The introductory slides for the Sherbino event are provided in appendix 4.2.

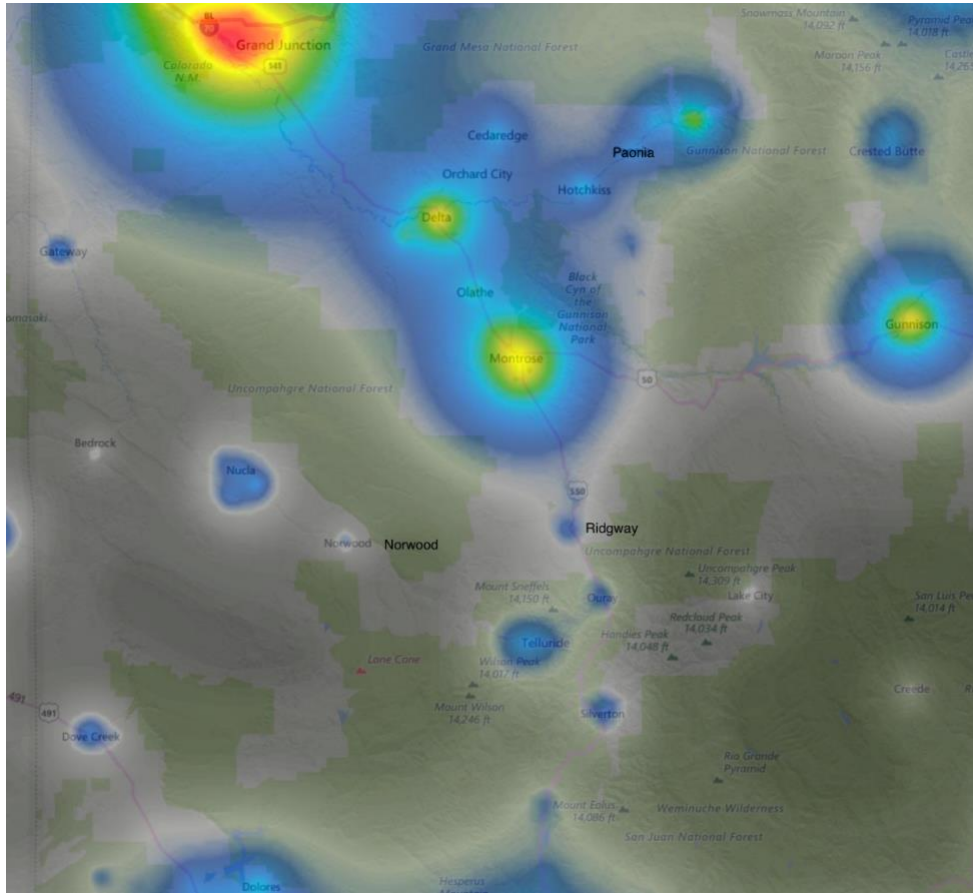


Official Poster provided by Saving The Dark Director, Sriram Murali

Early planning for outreach events in 2020 includes another showing of Saving the Dark and additional dark sky-themed star parties. Saving the Dark will be shown at the BCAS meeting on April 9, 2020 in Montrose, Colorado. During this meeting, RDSC representatives will provide summary charts on local dark sky preservation activities in southwest Colorado and what attendees can do to help preserve the dark skies. Currently confirmed star parties for 2020 include an event on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Ridgway State Park, sponsored by RDSC, BCAS, and Ridgway State Park. Other 2020 joint events are being considered with Top of the Pines (TOP), a Ouray County, Colorado recreation and education area in a remote location about five miles south of Ridgway.

## Section 4.3 Local Media Coverage and Outreach

Most recently the Paonia community radio station KVNF.org explored Dark Sky Preservation activities on the Western Slope of Colorado. The 30-minute topic within KVNF's Local Motion program first aired December 31, 2019 and then again on January 4, 2020.



Southwest Colorado Dark Sky Map from 2015 VIIRS Atlas – [www.lightpollutionmap.info](http://www.lightpollutionmap.info)

KVNF's Kori Stanton spoke with Bob Grossman and Creighton Wood from Norwood, Val Szwarc from Ridgway and Aaron Watson from [Dark Skies Paonia](#) about their experiences preserving the dark night sky and applying for Dark Sky designation. KVNF also spoke with Virginia Harman, Chief Operating Officer of DMEA, Bryan Cashion, President of the [Black Canyon Astronomical Society](#), Nancy McGuire, President of the [Western Colorado Astronomy Club](#), Terry Hancock, Director of the [Grand Mesa Observatory](#) and Grand Junction resident Sonja Kendle.

The audio program can be found at <https://www.kvnf.org/term/ridgway-dark-skies>

Closer to Ridgway, two local papers, the Ouray County-based Plaindealer and the Telluride Planet, have published a number of Dark Skies articles and interviews with Val Szwarc. Also, our local utility, San Miguel Power Association, has published articles in its monthly newsletter EnergyWise.

# OURAY COUNTY Plaindealer

SINCE 1877

**Motorcyclist killed in  
Engineer Pass accident**

P2

**Fall colors arriving  
a tad late this year**

P3

**Local schools achieve  
high marks on state tests**

P10

**50¢**

OURAYNEWS.COM YEAR 142 THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF RIDGWAY, OURAY AND OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO NO. 18 SEPT. 26 - OCT. 2, 2019

TOWN OF RIDGWAY

## Shooting for the stars

*Ordinance lights way  
for sought-after dark  
skies designation*

BY MIKE WIGGINS AND ERIN MCINTYRE  
mike@ouraynews.com  
erin@ouraynews.com

Val Szwarc figures the residents of both coasts of the United States have rarely, if ever, seen the Milky Way, washed out by the light pollution generated by the sprawling cities that dot both ends of the country.

He contrasts that with Ridgway, where on any given clear night you can look up at the river of stars flowing across the sky, uninhibited by glaring street or porch lights. For nearly two years, he's made it his mission to preserve that resource for current and future generations, believing it to be as vital as clean air and water.

It's why he and others were compelled to applaud last week when the Ridgway Town Council signed off on a new outdoor lighting ordinance that aligns with International Dark Sky Association standards. With that approval, Szwarc and other members of a local committee have cleared the largest hurdle in their effort to obtain a coveted dark sky designation for the town.

This achievement is the latest move Ridgway has made to protect dark skies, something it's been doing for decades in various other ways.

The town's first lighting ordinance was adopted in 1997, according to Shay Coburn, town planner. The recently adopted master plan also stipulates dark skies are a resource to protect in Ridgway.

These measures in place were referenced several times as the council and planning commission wrestled with the details of adopting the ordinance over the past few months. The council considered drafts of the ordinance in March, June and July before making a decision.



Ridgway photographer Gary Ratcliff captured this image of the Milky Way over Chimney Peak near Ridgway earlier this week. Dark skies enthusiasts who want to preserve stargazing opportunities here cheered the Town Council's passage of an ordinance that aligns with International Dark Sky Association standards.

Photo courtesy Gary Ratcliff/Ourayimage.com

**DARK 18**

STATE OF COLORADO

## Survey: Number of uninsured grows in region

BY ERIN MCINTYRE  
erin@ouraynews.com

The percentage of medically uninsured people has grown in the six-county region including Ouray and Ridgway since 2017, while the percentage of people receiving insurance from employers has dropped, according to

the Colorado Health Institute's latest survey.

The results of the Colorado Health Access Survey, released this week, show different results statewide — with a record-low 6.5 percent of Coloradans reporting they're without health insurance. However, in the region featuring Ouray, Montrose, San Miguel, Gunnison, Delta and Hinsdale counties, that number has increased since the last

survey in 2017. Now 8.9 percent of respondents in this part of the state are reporting they're uninsured.

Other notable results in this region show nearly 21 percent of respondents saying they couldn't get appointments as quickly as they needed (an increase from the last survey)

**UNINSURED 12**

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Ridgway  
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**Peggy Lindsey**  
Broker/Owner  
OurayRealEstateCorp.com  
970-596-1219

**OURAY REAL ESTATE CORPORATION**

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Open Daily  
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(970) 325-4408





## 2019 MT. SNEFFELS MARATHON-HALF MARATHON

The Mt. Sneffels Education Foundation would like to thank the following for making the 2019 19th Annual Marathon-Half Marathon race such a great success. Due to your continued support of the foundation and this race, we will be able to help provide funds for the 2019-2020 school year for many educational, cultural and other fine projects for over 500 youth in Ouray County. In 2018-2019 school year, the foundation provided \$102,952.00 in funding towards those projects. This is all possible due to the support for the race and the foundation.

**The Race Committee:** Who have served on the committee for years and spending countless hours of dedicated service, we could not have this race without your dedication to the kids and this event. **THANK YOU!!!!** Race Director: Tamara Gulde (8yrs), Elite Coordinator: Frank VanLandingham (5 yrs), Overall: Heather Anderson (19 yrs), Volunteers: Lori Leo (4 yrs), Sponsorships: Jamie Nixon (4yrs), Finish Line: Hank Nicholson (2 yr), Course: Brian Wallin (6yrs), Marcy Wood (3yrs), Registration/Foundation Admin: Rennie Ross (9 yrs)

**The Runners:** To the 675 who registered to run in this race. **THANK YOU!!!!**

**The Sponsors:** Who without your support we would not be able to have this race. **THANK YOU!!!!**

### PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSOR



### GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS

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JT CUSTOM METALWORK	MOUNTAIN FEVER SHIRTS & GIFTS
MARCUS VAN METER- OFFICIAL RACE PHOTOGRAPHER	OLD RIDGWAY FIREHOUSE
MATTERHORN INN OURAY/ABRAMS INN & SUITES	OURAY HOT SPRINGS POOL
MONTROSE EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS/	OURAY BOX CANON FALLS
	RIDGWAY MOUNTAIN MARKET
	SAN JUAN ACCOUNTING

### COPPER LEVEL SPONSORS

BASECAMP 550	OURAY QUALITY INN
BILLINGS ARTWORKS	OURAY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOX CANYON LODGE & HOT SPRINGS	RIDGWAY ADVENTURE SPORTS
DUCKETT'S MARKET	RIDGWAY FAMILY DENTISTRY
HOT SPRINGS INN	RIDGWAY LODGE AND STAR SALOON
LARABAK	RIDGWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MASTERS & VENER, P.C.	RIVER PEAK DENTAL
MOUSE'S CHOCOLATES AND COFFEE	SUMMIT SEALANTS, INC.
OURAY CHALET INN	TWIN PEAKS LODGE & HOT SPRINGS
OURAY MOUNTAIN SPORTS	UNITED COUNTRY SNEFFELS REALTY

### SLATE SPONSORS

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APPLIED ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC.	ORVIS HOT SPRINGS
ARTISAN BAKERY	OURAY BREWERY COMPANY
CITIZENS STATE BANK	OURAY LIQUORS
COLORADO BOY MONTROSE	PARK AVENUE PARTIES
COLORADO BOY RIDGWAY	SILVER EAGLE SALOON
COOR WELLNESS	SILVER LYNX
DALLY VETERINARY MEDICINE	SKOL STUDIO & GALLERY
DICKERSON CONSTRUCTION INC.	WIESBADEN HOT SPRINGS SPA AND LODGING
HISTORIC WESTERN HOTEL	
HOCKERSMITH & WHITMORE LLC.	

### OTHER SPONSORS

Khristopher's Culinaire, Main Street Inn, Park Avenue Party Rental

### SPECIAL THANKS

Ouray County, City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway  
Colorado Dept. of Transportation, Dee James

**The Volunteers:** To the 150 plus volunteers including Ouray & Ridgway Schools, Ouray County citizens, students and parents. **THANK YOU!!!!** For all of your hard work, helping stuff race packets, set up the race course, tents, tables, lead the race, run registration, direct traffic, working the aid stations and the merchandise, food, beer & awards tents, the kids race, start and finish lines, conduct water runs, drive the busses, provide security, race breakdown and many other duties too numerous to mention here. The Residents along the race route: **THANK YOU!!!!** For all of your patience and understanding that this race raises money for the Youth of Ouray County.

### The Mt. Sneffels Board of Directors

Heather Yeowell, Liana Schmidt, Jill Mort, Lori Leo, Erin Latta, Nate Disser, Scott Pankow, Kenneth Nelson, Trish Greenwood, Susan Lacey, Phyllis Fagrelus, Jen Donovan, Rennie Ross

## DARK

### FROM P1

Much of the discussion centered on whether going through the work of applying for official International Dark Skies Association designation and receiving that stamp of approval would help protect dark skies in Ridgway. To receive that designation, the town's new ordinance needed to include limits on light color and brightness, measured in lumens and kelvin, which is something town planners expressed concerns about enforcing and educating residents about.

"Kelvin and lumen are not something all general citizens speak in and understand," Coburn told the town council in August. "The lumen limits, I think, is the most difficult part of this whole ordinance."

Lumens measure light brightness and kelvin measures the color of light.

There were also concerns about limitations for outdoor lighting on buildings in denser areas or in mixed-use developments, which might conflict with current building codes.

At the town council's August meeting, Mayor John Clark pushed for the ordinance to be adopted, months after the council said it was a priority and first sent the matter to the planning commission.

He said a dark-skies designation is a "feather in our cap worth going for," and said concerns about enforcement and maintaining the designation isn't as big of a concern as staffers or the planning commission presented.

"I don't believe this is as complicated as maybe you do or the commission did," he said after hearing Coburn's concerns of the intricacies of kelvin and lumen limits and other issues.

Before initially approving the ordinance in August, other councilors said now is the time to put lighting restrictions in place, as the opportunity to obtain the dark-skies designation would be under the 2015 rules instead of the new 2018 rules. This would allow existing properties' lighting to be grandfathered and wouldn't require updating. Those homes and businesses would only have to comply with the new standards if they change their outdoor lighting fixtures.

"They're not as restrictive as they could be," Councilor Beth Lakin said.

Proponents of the measure likened it to a "firewall" to prevent further light pollution with new development.

Planning Commission Chairman Doug Canright said the continued discussion and delay wasn't a matter of whether commissioners wanted to preserve dark skies, but rather a question of priorities.

"We were not questioning whether we wanted to do dark skies," Canright explained to the council at the August meeting. "I'm for it, but I'm saying, is this the number one thing to do right now?"

Canright said the proposal had been returned to the planning commission several times and expressed concerns about other priorities and workload.

During the planning commission's June meeting, Commissioner Bill Liske echoed concerns about the time and energy investment in the proposal.

"Is town council aware of the limitations of the enforcement?" Liske asked. "Who's going to go out after dark knocking on doors saying ... you have too many lumens?"

But by August, the council reiterated its desire to adopt the proposal.

"The council has been adamant about how important we feel it is and we're this close to getting it done," Clark said at the August meeting, noting he thought it would be crazy to table the issue after months of work.

Ultimately, the council adopted the ordinance, which will go into effect in October. The new ordinance includes:

- A 5,100 lumen limit on single-family homes
- A 6,500 lumen limit on single-family homes with accessory dwelling units
- A 25,000 lumen per foot rule limit on multi-family developments, mixed-use sites and non-residential sites with a limit of 1,500 lumens per lighting fixture.

The ordinance also includes rules for lights to be turned off within an hour of business closing and also within an hour of events such as athletic events and concerts ending. There's also a requirement for holiday lights to only be used from Nov. 15 to Jan. 31, as well as a rule for illuminated public art to include a dimmer and timer to shut off by 10 p.m. nightly. There are exceptions allowed for lighting to reduce public health hazards.

While some have said such a status could be a boon for the community and attract stargazer tourism, Szwarc said that isn't the committee's primary motivation.

"We're not doing this to enhance additional tourism or eco-tourism for Ridgway," he said. "We're actually doing this for those of us who live here in Ridgway to preserve that resource so it doesn't slip away from us."

Ridgway is on the verge of becoming the second dark sky-designated community on the Western Slope, joining Norwood, which became the first in February. Only two other communities in Colorado — neighboring towns Westcliffe and Silver Cliff in the south-central part of the state — have achieved the designation.

Paoia, Crestone and Estes Park are currently pursuing IDA designation. Other recently designated locations in the state include the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Dinosaur National Monument, on the Colorado-Utah border.

Szwarc has assisted in dark sky efforts in both Norwood and Ridgway. His curiosity about whether anyone was hosting star parties in the western Montrose County community led him to get involved in a three-year process to secure dark sky status there. At the end of 2017, a member of the nonprofit Ridgway-Ouray Community Council asked him if he'd lead a similar effort in Ridgway.

He and others presented a proposal to town leaders in the spring of 2018 outlining the process, the requirements and the benefits. Town staff and members of the Planning Commission had expressed concern about enforcing the kelvin and lumen limits outlined in the ordinance, but the Town Council "believed that the benefits outweighed the costs," Szwarc said.

Szwarc acknowledged there will be a learning curve for residents and business owners, and he and the other 30 or so members of the local dark sky committee have agreed to help the town with outreach and education efforts.

At the town council meeting in August, Szwarc said the Ridgway-Ouray Community Council is willing to help, even with changing the fixtures in 24 mercury vapor lamps around town that need to be updated.

The council held two Dark Sky star parties last year and another in May at Ridgway State Park. The group also screened a free documentary, "Saving the Dark," at the Sherbino Theater in April. These are examples of community educational efforts that would need to continue if the designation is awarded.

While a lighting ordinance that conforms to IDA standards was perhaps the most critical piece, there are other criteria the local committee must meet to achieve certification. The group is in the process of obtaining letters of support from several key entities, including Ouray County commissioners and the Ridgway Chamber of Commerce.

The next deadline for dark sky applicants is Nov. 25. Szwarc hopes to have everything in place to submit an application by then, but if the committee misses that deadline, there will be another in January. He said the IDA takes 30 to 60 days to review and ultimately approve or disapprove applications.



# TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

**Inside Today:** The View p3; Voices, p11; Sports p14; Life, p21; Orbit, the back page

**SUNDAY**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019  
VOLUME 25, NUMBER 111  
www.telluridedailyplanet.com



**Don't quote me but...**  
"You don't have permission to steal our future. This is urgent!"  
— Forest Olson, of Telluride

## Calendar

### Sunday

- Friends of the Library Used Book Sale: Wilkinson Public Library, 10 a.m.-noon
- Sneffels Fiber Arts Festival: 4H Event Center, Ridgway, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- AA: Christ Presbyterian Church, 5:30 p.m.
- Palm Summer Jazz Series: Rudy Royston and Flatbed Buggy, Bob Saunders Black Box Theatre, 7 p.m.
- Film: "It's Chapter Two," Nugget Theatre, 7 p.m.

### Monday

- Yoga with Sue: Wilkinson Public Library, 8:30 a.m.
- Construction Story Time and Field Trip: Wilkinson Public Library, 11 a.m.
- Fall Festival Happy Hour: Telluride Distilling Company Tasting Room, 4-6 p.m.
- AA: Christ Presbyterian Church, 5:30 p.m.
- Al-Anon: Christ Presbyterian Church, 5:30 p.m.
- Film: "The S Word," documentary about suicide, Wilkinson Public Library, 6-8 p.m.

## Weather

**Forecast:** Sunday will be sunny with a high of 61. Monday and Tuesday there's a chance of rain and a high of 62 both days

**Muse:** "Either we limit our population growth or the natural world will do it for us, and the natural world is doing it for us right now." — David Attenborough

**IN ORBIT:**

**Sunday Focus:**  
Business

**MV market: new ownership**

TELLURIDE

## Housing shortage impacts employers

By SUZANNE CHEAVENS  
Associate Editor

*TCH report reflects frustrations felt by area businesses, nonprofits*

Asking any area employer how the summer went is to hear a litany of woes. Yes, the cash registers rang, but the challenge of finding an affordable place to live thwarted many business owners and managers' ability to retain workers. Insufficient staffing, decreased hours of operations and a reduction in services impacted a range of businesses spanning the for-profit, nonprofit and events sec-

tor of the area economy.

Cathie Seward is the assistant general manager for the New Sheridan properties, which include the hotel, the Parlor Bar and the Chop House dining areas and the Phoenix Bean. In all, the hotel-dining business employs 110-115 workers, from housekeepers, kitchen staff, servers

and hotel-related workers.

"As far as retaining staff, this was our worst summer," Seward said. "Our classified ad ran in the paper from March until now. We've been unable to fill all our positions."

The reason, she said, is housing, or a lack thereof.

"The lack of affordable rent-

als is creating a situation where mountain towns are not attracting a workforce," she said.

The New Sheridan's situation is nearly universal in the area. According to a recently released report compiled by the Trust for Community Housing, despite encouraging gains in the affordable housing pool, "About 59 percent of employers reported that the lack of affordable housing for their employees is a critical or serious problem for their busi-

See HOUSING, Page 6



### Taking it to the streets

A group of citizens joined a global day of demonstrations and school strikes to plead for action on climate change. The movement is inspired by 16-year-old Swedish activist, Greta Thunberg, whose message of striking school in support of science, has been taken up by young people around the world. (Photo by Suzanne Cheavens/Telluride Daily Planet)

TELLURIDE

## Town officials, residents meet with chief marshal candidates

**Kolar to retire**

By JESSICA LACKEY  
Planet Contributor

Telluride residents, community members and town officials mixed and mingled with three final candidates for Telluride chief marshal at a social event Thursday. Current chief marshal Jim Kolar announced his retirement earlier this year.

The three finalists for chief marshal include Vernon Knuckles from Montezuma County, Josh Comte from Newport

Beach, California, and Joseph Deras out of Gilroy, California.

"There is a process to make sure that we have the proper staffing in place before that transition, as well as overlap to allow for handoffs," said town manager, Ross Herzog. "It's more setting ourselves up for success."

Herzog explained the process involved in selecting the new chief marshal, noting that the hope is to have the selected candidate train alongside Kolar then officially take over the role

by the end of the year.

"There is a technical panel scheduled for tomorrow (Friday) and that includes the sheriff, the marshal, superintendent of schools and Mountain Village chief of police," Herzog said. "I also want to have one on one time with our director of human resources to go through all the candidates, and we have to look at feedback from all the department heads, staff, community input, and then from there, we'd

See CANDIDATES, Page 9

## 'DARK SKY-FRIENDLY' LIGHTING ORDINANCE ADOPTED BY RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL

*'Major accomplishment' toward goal of Dark Sky designation*

By LESLIE VREELAND  
Contributing Editor

inky-black nights and luminous starcapes are precious commodities in this hyper-illuminated world, and an increasing number of western communities are racing to preserve the dark by becoming Dark Sky communities.

Two towns in the Wet Mountain Valley, neighboring Westcliffe and Silver Cliff, became the first in Colorado to achieve certification by the International Dark Sky Association last year. Norwood achieved IDA certification earlier this year. And on Wednesday, Ridgway took an important step toward joining this elite group, when Town Council passed an "IDA-friendly" outdoor-lighting ordinance. The nonprofit Ridgway-Urday Community Council, or ROCC, has been leading the charge when it comes to promoting local Dark Skies. Committee co-chair Val

See SKY, Page 10



The local nightscape at a Dark Skies "star party" hosted by ROCC at Ridgway State Park last May, about two miles from downtown Ridgway. (Photo by Joyce Tanihara, Black Canyon Astronomical Society)

## 'Dark Sky-friendly' lighting ordinance adopted by Ridgway Town Council

SKY, from page 1

Szwarc, a resident of Log Hill, called Wednesday's ordinance "a major accomplishment toward the goal of IDA designation."

(The communities of Paonia, Crestone and Estes Park are also pursuing IDA designation. Other parks and monuments around the state either already designated or currently seeking Dark Sky status, Szwarc said, "include Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Great Sand Dunes National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado National Monument and Rocky Mountain National Park.")

Szwarc was pleased that Wednesday's ordinance was officially adopted — but as he pointed out, "the lighting in Ridgway's new streetscape was Dark Sky-friendly. That was the motivation for my involvement: they were mostly already there." What is more, out of "all of the Planning Commission and Town Council meetings that have discussed IDA Dark Sky designation, no one from the business community, or any private citizens, have made any negative comments" about it.

Indeed, several members of the public thanked Town Council Wednesday for its support of the lighting ordinance, which officially goes into effect Oct. 25,

or 30 days following its passage.

A number of other criteria "remain to be satisfied" for IDA certification, Szwarc said, including letters of support from key groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Ouray County Commissioners and Ridgway Town Council Ouray (which pledged to write such a letter Wednesday).

Public outreach is also required for the IDA's okay: ROCC held two Dark Sky "star parties" last year, and another in May at Ridgway State Park. The nonprofit also screened a free documentary, "Saving the Dark" — followed by a Q&A about Dark Sky certification, and the effects of dark skies on the health of migrating birds, wildlife, and even humans — for a group of about 70 members of the community at the Sherbino Theater earlier this year.

As you might expect, actual dark skies are a requirement for certification, something Ridgway not only has in abundance, but have actually been measured. "Our measurements are very comparable to Norwood's," Szwarc has said. "An astronomy

ranger visiting from Black Canyon National Park told me the quality of the darkness just outside the high school is very similar to that of the Black Canyon."

The next deadline for Dark Skies applicants is Nov. 25. Szwarc hopes to have everything in place for Ridgway's certification by then. "If not, there's another deadline early next year," he said. Citizens and businesses

wishing to "volunteer improvements" to their external lighting "to help protect the dark skies in southwest Colorado" can do the following, Szwarc suggested: upgrade external lights to fixtures "that direct all light downward," use light-bulbs with a color temperature of 3,000 kelvin or less (this number is printed on LED bulbs), employ adaptive controls such as motion sensors, timers and dimmers and "use only the amount of light needed, at a brightness that is reasonable."

Szwarc invites anyone interested in learning more to contact him at HYPERLINK "mailto:vsszwarc@yahoo.com" vsszwarc@yahoo.com. For complete information about the International Dark-Sky Association, go to [darksky.org](http://darksky.org).

*The next deadline  
for Dark Skies  
applicants is  
Nov. 25.*



SEPTEMBER 2018

## Ridgway's Grassroots Effort Is Working To Preserve Our Starry Dark Skies

HERE IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE AN AWE-INSPIRING STARRY NIGHT SKY. WITH THIS IN MIND, LOCAL CITIZENS HAVE BEEN VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME WORKING TO OBTAIN AN OFFICIAL "DARK SKY TOWN" DESIGNATION FOR RIDGWAY FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY ASSOCIATION.

Several SMPA employees, including Key Accounts Manager, Paul Hora and Energy Services Technician, Terry Schuyler have also been volunteering their time in this endeavor. As Hora explains: "SMPA is a community focused organization and when there is an undeniable opportunity to support issues that benefit everyone we are onboard to help in any way we can. When a place is officially recognized as having a valuable natural resource, it helps to protect that resource. The dark sky in our service territory is some of the best in the country. If we can

help preserve it, then we are helping not only the current members but the future ones as well. That makes a lot of sense to us".

The Ridgway Dark Sky Committee is led by Val Szwarc and Dave Jones.

"We appreciate how SMPA has been working in many ways to preserve our dark skies", says Szwarc. "They have been assisting customers to retro-fit light bulbs and fixtures for improved efficiency and reduced outdoor light pollution. SMPA has also been a leader in helping educate the public

with simple tips anyone can do like; shielding bulbs to prevent glare, using 3000 degrees Kelvin or less (soft white) bulbs, and not over-illuminating. We are encouraged by the support for dark skies that we are seeing from local residents, businesses, The Town of Ridgway and visitors. Ridgway's dark starry sky is an amazingly beautiful resource worth protecting".

### Don't miss the Star Party!

- ◆ Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Ridgway State Park Visitor Center
- ◆ Presentations 7:00pm
- ◆ Telescope viewing 8:00pm



## Why Does the Bill Look Different?

San Miguel Power's conversion to a new Customer Information System has affected almost every aspect of our business, including billing. We have designed the new bill with certain improvements over the old ones. Notably, you will be able to quickly see your balance due and account status. Also, the paper bill is designed to compliment our new online customer care portal, SmartHub. For more detail, see [www.smpa.com/content/understanding-your-bill](http://www.smpa.com/content/understanding-your-bill). You can turn off your paper bill in SmartHub.

Additional media posts highlighting outreach opportunities and status to the general public are summarized below with online links.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Publication/Station</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Link</b>
12/26/2019	Telluride News	Back to Black	Town of Ridgway's Dark Sky Application nears completion	<a href="#">Telluride Daily Planet; December 26, 2019</a>
05/08/19	Telluride Daily Planet	Weekend in the Dark	Segment highlights upcoming Dark Sky themed star party at Ridgway State park	<a href="#">Telluride Daily Planet; May 8, 2019</a>
03/30/19	Telluride Daily Planet	The Gift of Night: 'Saving the Dark' film screening, 'Dark Skies' preservation update and astrophotography—all in Ridgway this week	Discussion of the upcoming Sherbino showing of Documentary "Saving the Dark" and dark sky preservation in Western Colorado	<a href="#">Telluride Daily Planet; March 30, 2019</a>
03/22/2019	KVNF Radio	Western Slope Skies	Covers night sky preservation efforts under IDA guidance	<a href="#">KVNF Radio; March 22, 2019</a>
9/2018	San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Newsletter	See the Light, Protect the Dark	Explanation of 7 ways to help preserve our night skies with pictures	<a href="#">EnergyWise; February 2018</a>
05/24/18	Ouray County Plaindealer	The Night Sky Beckons	Highlights dark sky places in the west and upcoming local Ridgway eents	<a href="#">Telluride Daily Planet; May 24, 2018</a>
05/11/2017	The Watch	The Allure of Dark Skies	Promoting IDA, dark skies and local related events	<a href="#">The Watch; May 11, 2017</a>
8/6/2015	The Watch	Stars Unseen	Highlights dark sky protection and local interest/efforts	<a href="#">The Watch; August 6, 2015</a>



# Ouray County in the Dark

If the nights seem particularly dark around Ouray and Ridgway, don't be alarmed. It's done by design, to help preserve one of our most valuable resources: the night sky.

Story: Robb Magley  
The Ridgway Sun



When you go outside in Ouray County, you can see

## 3,000 stars.



John Buting and Jim Kennedy are two of the county's most active dark-sky advocates; Kennedy was a member of the original Ridgway-Ouray Community Council committee that pushed for much of our dark-sky legislation, and Buting is a former attorney who has worked around the country to preserve night skies.

"The light bouncing around the sky is what obscures the stars, in the same way that smoke obscures the view of Mt. Sneffels," said Kennedy. "That's why you can't see the stars in Denver as much as in Ridgway."

Kennedy pointed out when you go outside in Ouray County, you can see 3,000 stars, compared to roughly 200 in Denver. It's because your eyes have a chance to begin a process known as "dark adapta-

tion."

"Over the first 15-20 minutes you're in the dark, your retinas synthesize more of the chemical that's sensitive to light," said Kennedy. "That's when the stars really start to pop out. But the thing that ruins that process instantly is the glare from a light bulb or a headlight; when that hits your eye, you have to start all over again."

Not everyone was immediately open to the idea of less light, said Buting.

"It's mostly an educational process," said Buting. "Initially there's often resistance from people who feel that someone's trying to tell them what they can do with



Photos: Robb Magley, Pat Davarn, Jim Kennedy





their property, or exposing them to more crime and violence by taking away their lights. It's not what we're about at all; we're trying to show them a more efficient way to light their property, get that light down on the ground instead of spilling into their neighbor's window or up into the night sky."

Often neighbors are not aware that their light is bothering anybody, because they can't see it themselves, said Kennedy. "But people talk to their neighbors here," he said. "I'm sure you didn't realize it, but your porch light shines in my bedroom window — but if you place a simple shield on it, it solves the problem."

"We had one neighbor who was a great example of initial resistance," said Buting. "She had an unshielded porchlight, the glass lantern style where the bulb is exposed in every direction. She didn't understand how far the light was being cast; I went over and showed her some examples of inexpensive, simple light shielding. We retrofitted the fixture with a \$7 piece that looks like a little lampshade that sits over the bulb, that has the effect of putting all the light downwards. Now there are nights when it's on, and neighbors can't even see it."

Kennedy said the Ouray County planners, the Board of County Commissioners, and the Ridgway Town Council have all embraced the concept of preserving night skies through simple rules for homes and businesses.

"The Ridgway Town Council in particular has had such foresight and interest in saving the night skies," said Kennedy. "They've taken extraordinary steps, including replacing all of their old-fashioned, 175-watt mercury vapor streetlights with 50-70 watt high-pressure sodium lights. They put more light on the ground, use a third as much energy. We save money on electricity, and help global warming by not generating excess carbon dioxide to make the electricity."

Kennedy added the county government has had a huge impact as well. "They instituted a visual impact ordinance that has gone into effect," he said. "Now all new construction in Ouray County outside of the town is required to have shielded lights. It's pretty much what you see all over the



All new construction in Ouray County outside of towns is required to have

**shielded lights.**

■ Shielded light fixtures put the light where you want it — on the ground, instead of in your eyes.



state of Colorado and the West these days.”

Kennedy said the initial reluctance was tempered by the fact that Ouray County residents recognized that the dark-sky philosophy fits well with the way people think about preservation on the Western Slope.

“I think everybody’s beginning to recognize that this is the way we should live,” said Kennedy. “It’s part of our heritage here in Ouray County. We want to have as minimal an impact on the area as we can, and preserve it the way people who have lived here a long time have come to expect.”

Buting has been an advocate of

from unshielded lighting creates lots of blind spots, lots of dark places where wrongdoers can hide in the shadows.”

The payoff in Ouray County is a sky like no other; between the altitude and the lack of light pollution, residents and visitors enjoy one of the clearest skies in the northern hemisphere. Kennedy said even people without telescopes can enjoy summer nights. One of the best for so-called “naked eye” viewing are meteor showers.

“A great one is the Perseid meteor shower, which takes place August 11th and 12th (2005),” said Kennedy. He explained periodic meteor showers occur when the Earth runs through a dust trail left behind by a long-ago comet; the streaks of light are caused when tiny grains of sand incinerate in the atmosphere.

“Any night around here you can go out around midnight, and see 5-10 so-called ‘sporadic’ meteors in an hour,” said Buting. “A good shower will produce 50-100 meteors; the Perseids should produce well over 100.”

The meteors are named with the suffix ‘id,’ which means ‘children of’; the Perseids are the ‘children of Perseus,’ because they look like they’re coming from the constellation Perseus.”

“There’s a shower called the Aquariids, which seems to emanate from the constellation Aquarius,” said Kennedy.

Kennedy said the light from the moon is often bright enough to obscure many meteors, but this summer it won’t be as big a factor during the Perseids. “We’re lucky this year the sky will be dark, as it’s a less than first quarter moon.”

Observing is better after midnight, he said, because the Earth has turned so it’s moving head-on into the dust stream.

“I recommend people go outside, get in a sleeping bag, put a stocking cap on, and get a lawn chair,” said Kennedy. “What I like to do is set my alarm clock, get up at 3 a.m., and go check the sky. If it’s clear I get my sleeping bag and head out.”

“The problem with meteor showers is that most people go out around midnight, watch for an hour, and are disappointed,” said Buting. “If you can only watch for two hours, get up and do it in the early morning.”

In June, July, and August there

## Perseids, Aug. 11-12

“I recommend people go outside, get in a sleeping bag, put a stocking cap on, and get a lawn chair.”

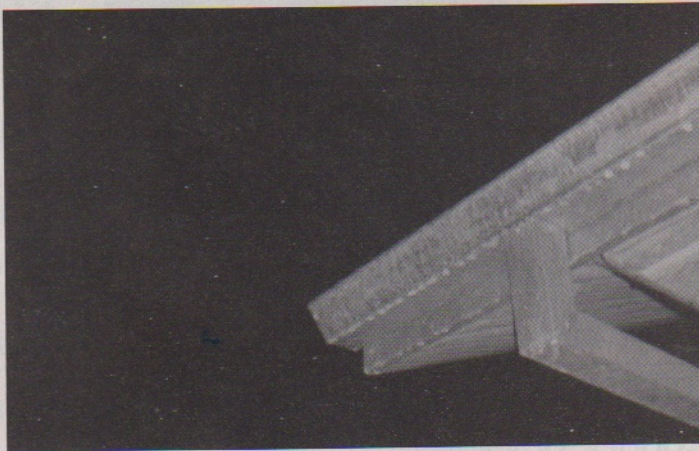
— Jim Kennedy

shielded lighting in other states, from Oregon to New Mexico. “One of the arguments I always make is that this issue, environmentally, is a more important issue than spotted owls, old growth trees, or salmon runs combined,” said Buting. “The reason is that only a small number of people are ever going to see those endangered species, while the night sky is something that should be available to all of us and our children, simply by walking out our back door and looking up.”

A good rule of thumb to see if your lighting is going to affect your neighbors is to look at the fixture in the daytime, and see if you can see the bulb itself. “If you can see the bulb, then the light rays are going to go out into your eyes and into the sky,” said Kennedy. “Instead

of on the ground where you need it.”

Concerns about security with shielded lights aren’t backed up by the facts, according to Buting. “There are numerous studies from law enforcement and other groups that show shielded lighting does a better job overall for security lighting,” said Buting. “The glare





are quite a few planets in the sky, most visible with the naked eye.

"Towards the end of June you'll see three planets within one degree of each other — Mercury, Venus, and Saturn. To understand how close that is, hold your arm out and extend your finger; that's one degree."

"That triple conjunction, as it's called, will be spectacular," said Buting. "The weekend of June 24, 25, and 26 is when it's peaking."

Buting said most binoculars have about a five-degree field, so all three planets will easily fit within view. "It's really rare. They'll be apparent to the naked eye as well, being so bright."

"Saturn will be well-placed for telescopes probably until the end of June," said Buting. "It'll be the brightest object in the night sky by far, so even if you don't have a star map it'll be easy to spot."

Even with a small telescope, observers in Ouray County can

easily moons circling Jupiter and Saturn; often, in these dark skies, you can see Saturn's rings with a pair of binoculars. Kennedy recommends propping them up on something to hold them steady.

"The four inner moons of Jupiter are the ones that Galileo first discovered," said Kennedy. "They're known as the Galilean Moons."

Buting said Galileo's discovery of those moons, more than any other event, precipitated the revolution in scientific thinking that perhaps the Earth revolved around the sun, instead of the other way around.

"What's interesting is one of them, Europa, is the best candidate right now for life outside of planet Earth," said Buting. "We know it's covered with ice, and underneath that ice is an ocean that's the largest body of water anywhere in the solar system."

Mercury, Venus, and Saturn so close together you can see all three in a pair of binoculars.

## Triple conjunction, June 24-26.

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## Section 4.4 Community Support

The strong support provided by the Ridgway Town Council and staff parallels the strong support provided by most of our Ridgway residents. What follows is a strong letter of support from our three Ouray County Commissioners followed by support letters received from some of our larger local organizations and businesses.



DON BATCHELDER

JOHN E. PETERS

BEN TISDEL

### BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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541 4<sup>th</sup> Street • P.O. Box C • Ouray, Colorado 81427 • 970-325-7320 • FAX: 970-325-0452

June 27, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

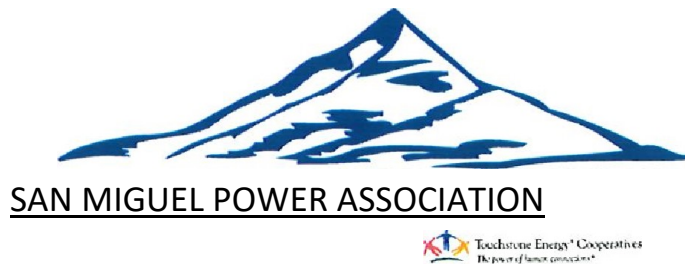
As members of the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners, we recognize the valuable natural resource of our areas dark skies for residents, visitors, businesses, and wildlife. By and through Ouray County Land Use Code Section 19 — Outdoor Lighting Regulations, the Board endeavors to protect our beautiful dark skies here in Ouray County. We support the Town of Ridgway's efforts to obtain an official Dark Sky Town designation from the International Dark Sky Association.

Thank you for your consideration in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Don Batchelder  
Chair, Ouray County Board of County Commissioners



January 15, 2020

IDA Board of Directors  
International Dark-Sky Association  
3225 North First Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85719

Ridgway Dark Sky Designation Letter of Support

Dear IDA Board of Directors

San Miguel Power Association provides the Town of Ridgway and all surrounding areas with their electric service. We have offices in multiple nearby communities, including Norwood, Colorado, which is currently an IDA Dark Sky Community.

As we previously supported the Town of Norwood, we likewise support the efforts of Ridgway to achieve their Dark Sky preservation objectives and IDA Dark Sky Community designation. We have provided technical assistance in revising their lighting ordinance and worked closely with the Dark Sky Committee of the Ridgway Ouray Community Council's (ROCC). We often host the Dark Sky Committee meeting at our Ridgway office facility.

For our own SMPA facilities, we have exchanged more than two dozen outdoor lights to a model which better preserves dark skies. We have also replaced more than 200 street & roadway lights in partnership with our local communities with Night Sky certified full-cutoff light fixtures that shine a low-Kelvin or "warm white" light only on the ground where it is needed.

We are actively engaged in offering new and emerging LED solutions for security or area lighting for all those who are interested. This initiative is consistent with other energy efficiency programs that we provide rebates for, as the change to LEDs assist our members financially as well. You can review our programs here: <http://www.smpa.com/content/energy-efficiency>.

To conclude, we wish to be on record to support the new Ridgway lighting Ordinance and will continue to support the Town's efforts in obtaining and maintain their IDA Dark Sky Community status,

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Zaporski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brad Zaporski  
San Miguel Power Association, Inc.  
General Manager/CEO  
(970) 626-5549 ext. 221

Letter of Support from ROCC for Ridgway Dark Skies  
& International Dark Sky (IDA) Certification  
8 December 2019

ROCC, the Ridgway Ouray Community Council, is a non-profit organization that works to enhance Ouray County's quality of life through education, protection of the environment and promotion of social justice. Currently 230 members strong, our group strongly supports local efforts to protect and preserve our dark skies. Based on member interest and support, ROCC reestablished a "Dark Sky Committee" in early 2018. Those volunteers have helped organize and lead our current local initiative to revise the Ridgway Outdoor Lighting Regulations (completed per IDA standards Sept. 2019), satisfy additional IDA criteria, and obtain IDA certification as a Dark Sky Community. In 2018 and 2019, ROCC budgeted funds for a number of Dark Sky Committee activities including Sherbino Theater rental for a Dark Sky event, purchase of two Sky Quality Meters to aid our volunteers in collecting data, and other operational costs. In 2019, ROCC members approved an unbudgeted request, giving our town a challenge grant that helps to defray the cost of replacing 24 remaining shielded but IDA non-compliant street lights.

While our members have recently worked to spur regulation revisions and to promote IDA recognition, our organization's commitment has been long and deep. ROCC support of our local dark skies began 25 years ago, in 1994, when our members selected dark sky preservation as one of our three primary goals. In June of that year, the Ridgway Town Council passed an Outdoor Lighting Regulation and later revisions strengthened that regulation. Then in 2003, with the encouragement and assistance of several ROCC members and the strong support of a committee of Town Council members and the Town Manager, Ridgway replaced 100% of its energy-inefficient street lights (unshielded 175 W mercury lamps). After consultation with IDA, they purchased full-cutoff energy efficient GE high pressure sodium fixtures, the best option available at that time. The town building inspector was directed to not approve any new construction that used non-compliant unshielded fixtures. An education campaign included letters to the editor of the local paper from ROCC members. Supportive articles began to appear in the local paper written by sympathetic newspaper staff members. Articles were published in the Telluride Watch, the New Yorker magazine, and in other local venues.

Over the next several years, ROCC developed "How To" documents to inform residents, new and old, about improving their non-compliant lights. Copies were made available at the Town Offices and the Land Use Office. The same information was written into the architectural guidelines of several subdivisions in unincorporated Ouray County and published on Home Association websites. Newly adopted covenants in some of the larger subdivisions eventually contained dark sky friendly requirements, and their architectural review committees began enforcement. Several educational star parties were held to reinforce the dark sky concept, and ROCC members made formal presentations for visitors



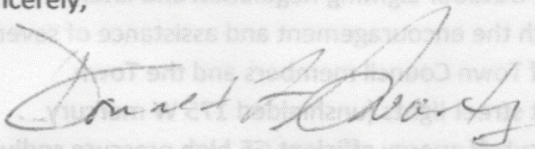
and locals at nearby Ridgway State Park headquarters. Several ROCC members also contributed to a fund that provided shields for mercury vapor fixtures owned by individuals/businesses. While individuals were encouraged to purchase the shields, if they were unable or unwilling, they were given shields for free by ROCC. These shielded fixtures can still be seen around town.

Two ROCC members subsequently approached our County officials about adopting a countywide light ordinance. The concept was generally welcomed, and these ROCC volunteers worked for many months with the County planners to develop a comprehensive light ordinance. ROCC members presented at multiple County Planning Commission meetings, at open hearings, and to the Board of County Commissioners. Support and attendance by other ROCC members proved critical to passage of our current dark-sky-friendly Ouray County Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

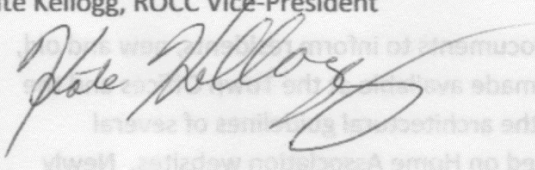
In summary, ROCC members have a long and deep history of being "all in" for dark sky preservation. Ironically, because our community has long embraced dark sky preservation, we have received recent push-back from some in the town. Stating we have long been a dark sky town and don't all embrace a need for more tourism, they ask why we need to do more? Our answer: we believe IDA Accreditation will help our town better educate our citizens and visitors while helping us resist future efforts to encroach on dark sky protections. Please support our efforts by approving our IDA application!

This letter was strongly endorsed by ROCC members at our December 2019 annual meeting.

Sincerely,



Don Swartz, ROCC President

Kate Kellogg, ROCC Vice-President



International Dark Sky Association  
3225 North First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

On behalf of the Colorado Chapter of the International Dark Sky Association, I am writing in support of the Town of Ridgway's effort to be a designated Dark Sky Community by the International Dark-Sky Association led by IDA Colorado Chapter member and advocate Val Szwarc.

The Ridgway Dark Sky Committee, under the auspices of the Ridgway Ouray Community Council (ROCC), has been working for 2 years to satisfy IDA community criteria according to 2015 guidelines. This community effort involving local and county government, a number of businesses, and many citizens in and around Ridgway builds on past efforts to protect the night sky and will significantly help to manage light pollution that impacts the star-filled, night skies and other ecosystems in the small rural town of Ridgway in Southwest Colorado.

The preservation of the starry night sky has been a priority of ROCC over the years as far back as 1994 with efforts that helped with the adoption of a Ouray County wide lighting ordinance. ROCC was also involved in supporting Ridgway's first lighting ordinance in 2003. More recently in early 2018 ROCC agreed to standup and significantly fund the Ridgway Dark Sky Committee under the leadership of Val Szwarc. ROCC approved the objective to obtain dark sky designation for Ridgway and the surrounding areas using IDA's extensive outdoor lighting and program guidelines.

In the second half of 2019 ROCC's Dark Sky Committee's efforts started to pay off with Ridgway's Town Council adopting on September 18th a significant update to its' lighting ordinance. This update, which became effective on October 18<sup>th</sup>, was coordinated with IDA's Dark Places Program Manager and is designed to be compliant to IDA's 2015 guidelines. With the new lighting ordinance satisfying a major IDA requirement, the Ridgway Dark Sky Committee will be submitting the formal application request as a Dark Sky Community designation in early 2020.

The citizens of Ridgway and the surrounding area recognizes that their starry night sky is a valuable natural resource providing benefits to residents, visitors, and wildlife. An official IDA Dark Sky Community designation for Ridgway would recognize the Town's accomplishments in preserving and protecting the nighttime environment and heritage of dark skies in this small rural town and gateway to the San Juan Mountains of Southwest Colorado.

The Colorado Chapter of IDA strongly supports the Town of Ridgway's efforts to preserve its starry night sky and look forward to Ridgway's designation being added along with Norwood, Colorado's accomplishment and others in southwest Colorado.

Most Sincerely,

Ryan Parker  
IDA Colorado Chapter – Chair  
303-669-6582  
ryan.parker@darksky.org  
International Dark Sky Association  
3225 North First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719





September 23, 2019

IDA Board of Directors  
International Dark-Sky Association  
3225 North First Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

*On behalf of the Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS), we are writing in support of the designation of the Town of Ridgway as an International Dark-Sky Association Dark Sky Community in Colorado.*

The primary mission of BCAS is

**Unite** and **stimulate** the energy, public interest, and knowledge of astronomy in southwestern Colorado.  
**Collect** and **disseminate** information regarding the science, literature, philosophy and art of astronomy.  
**Encourage** the preservation of dark skies.  
**Render** the universe readily accessible for the pleasure and education of the public.

*The Ridgway Dark Sky Committee, under the umbrella auspices of the Ridgway Ouray Community Council, has been and is working diligently to reduce the light pollution that impacts star-filled, night skies and other ecosystems. The protection of this valuable resource to Ridgway has been a long journey of which both Ridgway Dark Sky Committee and the residents of Ridgway and the surrounding areas can be proud.*

*Viewing this nightscape from a dark location like this Colorado town is a magical experience of unparalleled beauty and awe that the founding pioneers of this area had as a part of their lives. It deserves protection so that far into the future, both residents and visitors can continue to enjoy it.*

*In addition, preservation of the dark sky helps mitigate impacts to wildlife that need dark skies for migration. Managing external lighting has additional benefits to Ridgway in that it helps lower and manage the Town's Carbon footprint.*

*Achieving the above benefits is dependent on the town's enforcement of non-polluting, shielded exterior lighting language in their building ordinances. Ridgway has just recently updated their lighting ordinance to align with IDA recommendations.*

*The BCAS endorses the Ridgway Dark Sky Community effort to obtain designation of Ridgway as a Dark Sky Community. We consider it a valuable example to other communities to follow this path.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bryan Cashion". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'B' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'n'.

Bryan Cashion, President, IDA Member 47494



**LOGHILL VILLAGE**  
**HOME & PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
115 Ponderosa Drive, Ridgway, CO 81432 [www.loghillvillage.org](http://www.loghillvillage.org)

June 4, 2018

To: International Dark Sky Association

We are writing in support of Ridgway's application for recognition as a Dark Sky Community.

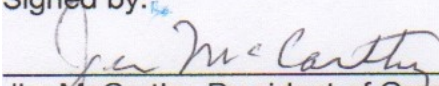
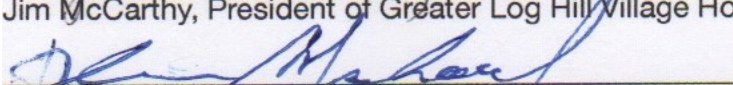
We represent the LogHill Village Home and Property Owners Association (LHVH&POA), a residential community located on a mesa overlooking the town of Ridgway, approximately 1 mile away. Our association represents Greater Log Hill Village, composed of approximately 18 subdivisions that contain from 6 to over 200 lots.

We appreciate the efforts that the town of Ridgway and Ouray County have made over the years to conform to the latest Dark Sky guidelines and to preserve our dark skies. Tourism is very important to our area and visitors often comment on the beauty of our night skies, as well as our mountains, clear air and other attractions.

Concurrently our LHV Board of Directors has rewritten our community guidelines, bylaws and covenants to encourage and require installation of proper night sky compliant light fixtures. These revisions have been approved by a formal vote of the residents. These efforts have generally been well received and residents take pride in our achievements. We are able to enjoy the night skies unimpeded by any street lights in our village, with dark sky compliant shielded fixtures on residences and minimal glare or sky glow from the improved compliant lighting installed in Ridgway. Star parties have been held in our village in the parking lot of the recreation center and at one of our scenic overlooks, known as Inspiration Point.

I'm sure that recognition by the International Dark Sky Association will be included in future advertising inviting tourists to visit our beautiful area.

Signed by:

  
Jim McCarthy, President of Greater Log Hill Village Home & Property Owners Association  
  
Dennis Michaud, Chair of Log Hill Village Units I, II & III

Log Hill Village Home & Property  
Owners Association  
Architectural Control Committee



# Ridgway Village West Homeowners Association, Inc.

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December 10, 2019

Ridgway Village West HOA, Inc.  
c/o Mountain Mansion Management  
P.O. Box 828  
Ridgway, CO 81432

Dear International Dark-Sky Association:

Members of the Ridgway Village West Homeowners Association, Inc. (HOA), a Colorado Common Interest Community, recently voted to lend written support to Ridgway, Colorado's application to become a certified International Dark Sky Community. Please accept this letter in that regard.

The HOA recognizes that our night sky is a valuable natural resource providing benefits to residents, visitors, and wildlife. An official "Dark Sky Community" designation for Ridgway would assist in preserving and protecting the nighttime environment and heritage of dark skies in our rural town. Sincerely,



Andrew Coburn  
President, Board of Directors  
Ridgway Village West HOA



P.O. Box 236, 604 W. Clinton St.  
Ridgway, CO 81432  
970-318-0892  
info@sherbino.org  
FEIN# 45-4764455

-----A project of the not-for-profit Ridgway Chautauqua Society, Inc.-----

January 7, 2020

Ridgway Chautauqua  
Society  
Board of Directors

Robb Austin  
John Clark  
Guthrie Castle  
Allison Gelvin, Secretary  
Sue Husch  
Kenny Mihelich  
Patrick O'Leary, Treasurer  
Gary Ratcliff, Vice-President  
Sheelagh Williams,  
President

To Whom It May Concern,

As owners and stewards of two of the most historic buildings in our town, the Ridgway Chautauqua Society board of directors adds our support of the designation of the Town of Ridgway as an International Dark-Sky Association Dark Sky Community in Colorado.

We host more than 300 programs each year in our venues, and last April the dark sky presentation received a standing-room-only crowd. Because many of our events are in the evenings, we are acutely aware of our star, planet, and Milky Way views each time we leave our Sherbino or 610 Arts Collective. We have carefully chosen our building lighting so it does not interfere with the night sky views.

We appreciate the efforts to preserve our night skies for current and future residents. We are hopeful that Ridgway's receipt of Dark Sky Community designation will lead the way for other areas to join in as well.

Sincerely,

*Sue Husch*

for the RCS Board of Directors

December 20,2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to get a letter in to support the Ridgway Dark Sky Initiative. We opened our Brewery, Colorado Boy, in December 2008. My wife and I had moved to Ridgway two years before from Palisade, Colorado. One of the first things we noticed about Ridgway was that you could see the Milky Way in town. That is something we could not do in Palisade, which is a small rural town, but right next to Grand Junction.

It was so important to us that we do nothing that would take away from the dark skies, we changed our outdoor lighting on our home, and when we built the brewery in downtown Ridgway, we put lighting on the building that would not interfere with the dark sky as well.

I feel that we only have one shot at this and really want to see Ridgway remain a truly dark sky town. There are so few left in the world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Tom Hennessy





December 22, 2019

Dear International Dark Sky Association:

As Chairman of Citizens Bank in Ridgway Colorado, I strongly endorse the town of Ridgway's application to become a certified International Dark Sky Community.

This fall, the town council unanimously approved a new lighting ordinance written to comply with the IDA guidelines in pursuit of this certification.

For many years, we all have enjoyed the benefits of the town's efforts to preserve our nighttime environment as a valuable heritage and resource for all to enjoy in our rural town. We are delighted that this certification would codify our successes in the years to come.

**Douglas M. Price**  
**Chairman and CEO**  
**CSBO Holdings Inc.**  
**Cell: 303-378-2141**  
**600 Main Street | PO Box A**  
**Ouray, CO 81427**



**CITIZENS  
STATE BANK**  
*Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*



**Alpine Bank**

**Ridgway**

119 Liddell Drive  
Ridgway, Colorado 81432  
970-626-4100  
Fax 970-626-4101

**Letter of Support for Ridgway Dark Skies**

January 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Alpine Bank strongly supports the protection and care of our environment. We pride ourselves on being leaders in our communities in this area with dedicated staff personnel helping us lead and support local initiatives.

Alpine Bank Ridgway has long been at the forefront of efforts to keep Ridgway energy efficient, safe, and beautiful. We applaud and support the Town of Ridgway's efforts to protect our treasured starry skies.

Sincerely,

Jamie C. Saff  
Banking Officer  
Alpine Bank Ridgway and Ouray

[www.alpinebank.com](http://www.alpinebank.com)

Printed on Recycled Paper

## Section 5.0 Sky Brightness Measurement Program

According to the IDA 2015 Community Guidelines, a sky brightness measurement program must be initiated and maintained to document and quantify the evolution of light pollution in the community. Ridgway's sky brightness measurement program was initiated and maintained by Val Szwarc the Chair of ROCC's Dark Sky Committee in early 2018 with help from Dave Jones, Co-Chair of ROCC's Dark Sky Committee. Later in the SQM measurement program Terry Schuyler, a former colleague of Val's at the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden became the alternate SQM observer. Currently, Terry is a Key Account Executive at SMPA in their Ridgway office.

Val initiated the measurement program using two SQM-L model instruments, which were purchased by ROCC as part of its Dark Sky Committee budget in 2018. As to measurement protocol, Val tailored a measurement plan similar to his proposed SQM Measurement Protocol paper that he presented at IDA's 2018 Annual General Meeting Conference at Snow Bird Utah in November 2018. The plan used for Ridgway's SQM measurements (reference Appendix 5) is also a derivative of what Val used in leading a small team of observers in Norwood, Colorado, that documented Norwood's baseline sky brightness in support of their IDA application and subsequent Dark Sky Designation in early 2019.

The SQM measurements for Ridgway were taken at four sites all within Town limits on a North-South line. The northern most site is just outside the High School grounds with the Town soccer field being the southern site. Two additional sites close to the center of Town were used as well, plus a control site at a dark location just beyond Town limits and about 2 miles north of Town center. The control site was used to help quantify sky quality impacts from natural environmental conditions and diffuse forest fire smoke, which is recently becoming more common from Summer and Fall forest fires in the Western US.

Generally, SQM results for Ridgway are very similar to what has been observed and documented in and around Norwood, Co. Typical zenith measurements for Ridgway are in the 21.3-21.6 range for the measurement sites at the North and South ends of Town. Zenith measurements in the Town center are typically 20.8 to 21.3. Some annual variation occurs due to the position of the Milky Way. Also, some winter time measurements are slightly brighter when snow cover is present, which is probably due to increased ground reflectivity that directs more surface light skyward where it is scattered and seen by the SQM-L instrument. For what is believed to be a combination of Milky Way position and atmospheric reasons, the darkest skies tend to be in the late spring timeframe since the atmospheric vertical column tends to be very dry and stable with little convective activity to inject lower level moisture into the higher levels that may produce cirrus types of clouds – some of which may be difficult to see visually, but shows up on GOES satellite imagery in IR channels specifically focused on water vapor detection.

For dark locations like Ridgway and surrounding areas where the "signal to noise" ratio is small, other environmentally induced variations could have an impact on SQM measurement results such as solar weather activity, as being studied by Dr. Al Grauer, who is the POC for an IDA Dark Sky Sanctuary in the GILA National Forest, NM. He has presented a number of papers on the subject at AGM conferences over the last few years. For this reason, the SQM measurement program for Ridgway has recently started to record solar weather activity at the time of SQM measurements in a collaborative effort to assist Dr. Grauer in his studies.



Ridgway's preliminary SQM measurement summary is provided in the Table below:

	North Site (High School Woodshop)	Town Center (Library Lot)	Town Center (Hartwell Concert area)	South Site (Soccer Field)	Control Site (Dallas Meadows, approx. 2 miles north of Town Center)
Mean (Zenith)	21.43	21.26	20.92	21.42	21.47
Standard Deviation (Zenith)	0.121	0.149	0.198	0.092	0.097
Range of Values (Zenith)	21.28-21.59	21.06-21.50	20.78-21.15	21.36-21.57	21.30-21.63
Sample Size (quality- controlled data)	9	6	4	5	11

## Section 6.0 Application Summary and Points of Contact Information

Thank you very much for considering the Town of Ridgway's application for IDA Dark Sky Community designation. This application and its content are truly a community effort with input from a wide range of organizations and citizens from the Town of Ridgway, it's Mayor, Town Council, and staff, to local organizations, businesses, and everyday citizen volunteers. We believe this application documents satisfaction of IDA's 2015 Dark Sky Community Guidelines and look forward to addressing any questions and or comments IDA may have.

Questions and comments concerning this Application can be directed to:

Val Szwarc, ROCC's Dark Sky Committee Chair  
610.662.7605 mobile  
[vszwarc@aol.com](mailto:vszwarc@aol.com)

Questions and comments concerning our Ridgway Dark Sky Community can be directed to:

Shay Coburn  
Town Planner  
**RIDGWAY TOWN HALL**  
PO Box 10 | 201 N. Railroad Street | Ridgway, Colorado 81432  
970.626.5308 ext. 222 | [scoburn@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:scoburn@town.ridgway.co.us)

## Appendix 3.0

### INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

3223 N first Ave - Tucson Arizona 85719 - 520-293-3198 - [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)

*TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE NIGHTTIME ENVIRONMENT AND OUR HERITAGE OF DARK  
SKIES THROUGH ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE OUTDOOR LIGHTING*



## International Dark-Sky Association Dark Sky Community Guidelines

October 2015

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## DEFINITION OF AN IDA DARK SKY COMMUNITY

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An IDA Dark Sky Community (DSC) is a town, city, or municipality that has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of quality lighting codes, dark sky education, and citizen support of dark skies.

## GOALS FOR IDA DARK SKY COMMUNITY CREATION

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- To identify communities with exceptional commitment to and success in pursuing dark sky preservation and restoration, and their promotion of quality outdoor lighting
- To promote ecotourism
- To promote protection of human health, nocturnal habitats, public enjoyment of the night sky and its heritage, and/or areas ideal for professional and amateur astronomy;
- To provide local, national, and international recognition for such communities
- To promote the ideals of International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) by encouraging communities to identify dark skies as a valuable community asset and goal

## BENEFITS

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Achieving this designation brings recognition of the efforts made by the Community council, the local government authorities (police department, planning and zoning, etc.), the citizens, and any other public and private organization to protect the night sky and the environment dependent on it. This designation will enhance awareness of dark sky matters to all residents and visitors of the Community.

Designation as an DSC entitles the Community to display the IDA Dark Sky Community logo in official publications, promotions, signs at the entrance or within the Community, and retain the use of this logo by other groups within the Community when identifying the area itself (i.e. a Community can say “Flagstaff, the world’s first IDA Dark Sky Community” or in other words to the same effect, for example, an organization within the Community can say “located in Star City, an IDA Dark Sky Community”). IDA will maintain a web page identifying and describing all DSCs available on [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org).

## ELIGIBILITY

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Community must have some type of legal organization that is officially recognized by outside groups. This can be in the form of a town, city, municipality, or other legally organized community (such as a urban neighborhoods and subdivisions).

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COMMUNITIES

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- A) A quality comprehensive lighting code like the IDA/IES Model Lighting Ordinance (MLO) with the following minimum standards for permanent lighting installations (more on developing a lighting code and guidelines may be found on our website <http://www.darksky.org/outdoorlighting/mlo>):
  - i) Fully-shielded or full-cutoff standard for all lighting fixtures over 1500 lumens initial lamp output (or equivalent wattages), AND;
  - ii) Establishes a threshold of 3000 Kelvins for the allowable correlated color temperature of all lighting fixtures, AND;
  - iii) Restrictions on total amount of unshielded lighting, such as a limit on lumens per acre or total site lumens in unshielded fixtures (or equivalent wattages), AND;
  - iv) A policy to address over-lighting, such as energy density caps, lumens/acre caps, or maximum illuminance specifications, AND;
  - v) A provision that clearly: (1) indicates where, when, and under what circumstances new public outdoor lighting (street lighting and lighting on other public property and rights-of-way) is warranted and will be permitted, and (2) requires that adaptive controls and curfews be employed in all future installations of public outdoor lighting.
- B) Community commitment to dark skies and quality lighting as shown by:
  - i) City owned lighting conforming with, or committed to conforming with, the lighting code (if the latter, a published plan with a timeline for completion in no more than 5 years), AND;
  - ii) Municipal support of dark skies and good lighting as indicated through city publications, flyers, public service announcements, funding of lighting upgrades, etc.
- C) Broad Support for dark skies from a wide range of community organizations such as:
  - i) Chamber of Commerce
  - ii) Local electrical utility
  - iii) Local IDA Chapter
  - iv) Lighting retailers
  - v) Home Owners Association
  - vi) Business Improvement Associations
  - vii) Others
- D) Community commitment to dark skies and education as shown by at least one of the following:

- i) Planning and execution of at least two community dark sky awareness events per year. This may be organized through a local astronomy club, municipality, school, etc. AND/OR;
  - ii) Inclusion of dark sky awareness documents (IDA brochures or Community-created brochures) with other Community informational documents for residents and visitors, AND/OR;
  - iii) Inclusion of dark sky education in Community schools and curriculum.
- E) Success in light pollution control. At least one of the following conditions must be demonstrated:
  - i) Examples of a minimum of ten projects built under the lighting code, demonstrating effective application of the local lighting code, AND/OR;
  - ii) Alternative demonstration of success in light pollution control, to be discussed with IDA for compliance.
- F) A sky brightness measurement program must be maintained either by the Community or by another public or private organization (university, research center, IDA chapter, astronomy club, etc.) to follow the evolution of light pollution in the DSC.
- G) Designation is permanent, but is subject to regular review by IDA and possible revocation if minimum requirements are not maintained. More details may be found in the “Reassessment of DSC designation” section.
- H) Periodic checks, through the submission of the annual report due October 1<sup>st</sup>, will be preformed to ensure that minimum standards and objectives of the program are being upheld and adequate progress is being made. This report is a short 1 to 2-page synopsis of the Community’s activities and initiatives throughout the last year. The Borrego Springs, CA report is included on the website for reference <http://darksky.org/idsp/communities/>.

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## PROVISIONAL STATUS

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- In some cases, a Community interested in the program may lack all of the resources required to achieve a designation outright. If resource unavailability otherwise hinders the progress of a Community’s application, that Community may apply for and be granted Provisional status at the discretion of the IDA Board of Directors. Provisional status recognizes the Community’s ongoing work to become an IDA Dark Sky Community and is intended as a leverage point to successfully enable actions such as lighting upgrades/retrofits and policy changes.
- Provisional status expires after three (3) years. At any time before the end of this period, a Community may reapply for full status. Material submitted for the removal of provisional status may be an addendum to the initial application as long as the material includes a current assessment of the goals, outreach efforts, and lighting policy listed in the original application and clearly demonstrates that any program requirements left unmet at receipt of the Provisional status have been satisfied.
- To be considered for a provisional status, send a nomination package that includes the following information:

- Documented intent to create and support an IDA Dark Sky Community;
- A description of the circumstances that currently prevent the Community from meeting the minimum Dark Sky Community requirements; and
- An action plan describing steps the aspiring Community will take to meet all program requirements in the specified Provisional status period

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## GUIDELINES ON THE DSC PROCESS

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### NOMINATION

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The nomination may be initiated by an IDA qualified nominator who has personally reviewed a Community's outdoor lighting and commitment to night sky preservation. To become an IDA qualified nominator, you must be an IDA member and be approved by the IDA Dark Sky Places manager. The nomination may be a joint effort between Community and the qualified nominator. Nominators are encouraged to correspond with IDA staff and the Community throughout this process—from first consideration of a DSC through the final submission package.

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### DSC APPLICATION PROCESS

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#### STEPS FOR APPLICANT

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- A) Initial contact with IDA by phone or email to discuss the process and receive recommendations followed by continued contact to update IDA staff on progress and receive continued recommendations;
- B) A formal point of contact (POC) person is designated and their phone, address and email information is forwarded to IDA staff. Before and after designation, any changes to this POC, or their information, must be communicated to IDA in order to ensure accurate communication at all times;
- C) Official supporting letter for the nomination from elected representatives of the Community, such as the mayor and/or council of a municipality. Any additional letters of support from organizations, clubs, groups, universities, etc.;
- D) Upon completion, the Community sends the application to IDA staff for review of the document. IDA staff confirms that the application is complete and ready for submission;
- E) Completed application packet in PDF and/or MS Word .doc format sent electronically to International Dark Sky Places committee (DSPC) by IDA staff for review.
- F) Submit in plenty of time for IDA staff to review and prepare your application to make the bi-monthly deadline that you prefer, find the deadlines at <http://darksky.org/idspacecommunities/>. Requests to



rush applications will NOT be accepted; meaning that planning ahead is essential if the Community is planning to meet a deadline.

---

### **TO BE INCLUDED IN DSC SUBMISSION**

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- A) Map of Community and factual information, i.e. population, number of schools, etc.
- B) Letter of nomination support by IDA qualified nominator and elected representatives of the Community such as the mayor and/or council.
- C) The Community's lighting code and guidelines must meet the minimum requirements as stated in the minimum requirements section.
- D) Documentation of examples of Community support and projects.
- E) Proposed alternative wording for a DSC (e.g. Dark Sky Village, Starry Sky City, etc.), if desired.
- F) An outline of a completed application is available and may be used upon request.

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### **IDA REVIEW PROCESS**

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- A) Applications are sent to the committee on a bi-monthly basis.
- B) Before the Community's final application is submitted it is highly recommended that the Community be in regular conversation with IDA staff to perfect the application before the next application deadline. Applications not ready for submission by the deadline for committee consideration will be considered at the next committee meeting.
- C) IDA staff forwards application to Dark Sky Places Committee for review at the deadline.
- D) Approval of application by DSPC is by a 2/3-majority vote, or denial with reasons and recommendations. The DSPC committee may consider the applications for up to two months before a decision is released to the applicant. If approved the location will be notified and the program manager will organize a press release with the location during a 10-day waiting period during which the Board of Directors will have the formal right to veto should they perceive a problem with the application. The Community has the right to choose when the press release is made public but must organize the announcement to be made at the same time as the IDA press release unless otherwise discussed and agreed upon by both parties.
- E) If approved the Community is awarded the DSC designation and listed along with their application on the IDA website. By submitting the application, the Community agrees to have the application posted to the website unless otherwise stated;
- F) If denied, a letter is sent to applicant outlining elements of the application that need improvement and specific recommendations for ways to remedy them. Applications can be resubmitted for future consideration after remediation is complete.
- G) IDA realizes that certain circumstances surrounding a DSC application may cause some potential authors of letters of support (or opposition) to feel uneasy about publicly declaring their opinions about the IDA designation. In the interest of providing the Dark Sky Places Committee with as full a picture of Community sentiment about applications as possible, it is possible for some letters to be

suppressed from online publication if it is felt that making the letters publicly available will subject their authors to retaliation or harassment. A prospective DSC seeking this protection for letter writers must make a formal written request to that effect. The Program Manager must approve suppression of publication of any part of an application. Note that suppression of online publication does not prevent either the Committee or the IDA Board of Directors from reading all submitted letters.

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## **REASSESSMENT OF DSC DESIGNATIONS**

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To ensure that Communities continue to be exemplary in their protection and restoration of natural lightscapes, IDA will periodically reevaluate each site in the Dark Sky Places Program. This is done to confirm that the Community continues to meet the minimum requirements and is making adequate progress toward LMP compliance goals outlined in this document.

To this end, the Community will submit an annual report to IDA by October 1st detailing activities and progress towards meeting DSC requirements during the previous twelve months. The report should include dates and brief descriptions of any interpretive events, lighting retrofit projects, outreach efforts, etc. Samples of printed materials and press articles should also be included. The annual report should not require a lot of time to produce, as it should be a compilation of information generated during the year. Electronic submission of the report and supporting documentation is required in PDF or Microsoft Word format. If the annual report is not sent in a timely fashion, IDA may suspend the site's DSC status until the annual reporting requirement has been met (see the following section).

### **Investigation and Due Process**

A DSC designation is intended to represent the beginning of an ongoing relationship between the Community and IDA to our mutual benefit. IDA will periodically review the nature of that relationship in the required annual reports as described in the previous section. From time to time, IDA also receives comments from visitors to Communities that raise concerns about the veracity and timeliness of information provided to IDA by site administrators. IDA may, at its discretion, investigate claims in which it is alleged that DSCs are not living up to commitments made to IDA and the public in their applications to the Program. This section details the IDA procedure for carrying out such investigations, and the rights of DSCs in such matters.

An allegation of impropriety concerning any of the elements of participation in the Program outlined in this document is subject to IDA investigation and potential remedial action including temporary suspension and/or permanent revocation of the DSC designation. IDA staff shall perform due diligence in gathering facts concerning such allegations it deems credible, and will prepare a report of its findings for consideration by the DSPC. The DSPC commits to weighing the evidence fairly and impartially, and to seek to resolve disputes whenever possible through dialog. A Community subject to an investigation shall be notified in a timely manner and solicited for evidence contrary to the specifics of the allegation at hand. The resolution manner of dialog shall be emphasized from the beginning, and the Community will be given an opportunity to correct any deficiencies with regard to the Program guidelines established by the IDA investigation within a reasonable time period to be prescribed by the DSPC.

Failure to achieve consensus through these means risks a DSPC recommendation for suspension or

revocation of the DSC designation. If made, such a recommendation will be forwarded to the IDA Board of Directors for formal ratification before coming into force. The Board's decision on any disciplinary matters involving a DSC shall be considered definitive and binding.

Any DSC so investigated has the right to review the allegations against it and all factual information collected by IDA pertinent to the allegations.

### **Reinstatement Following Suspension**

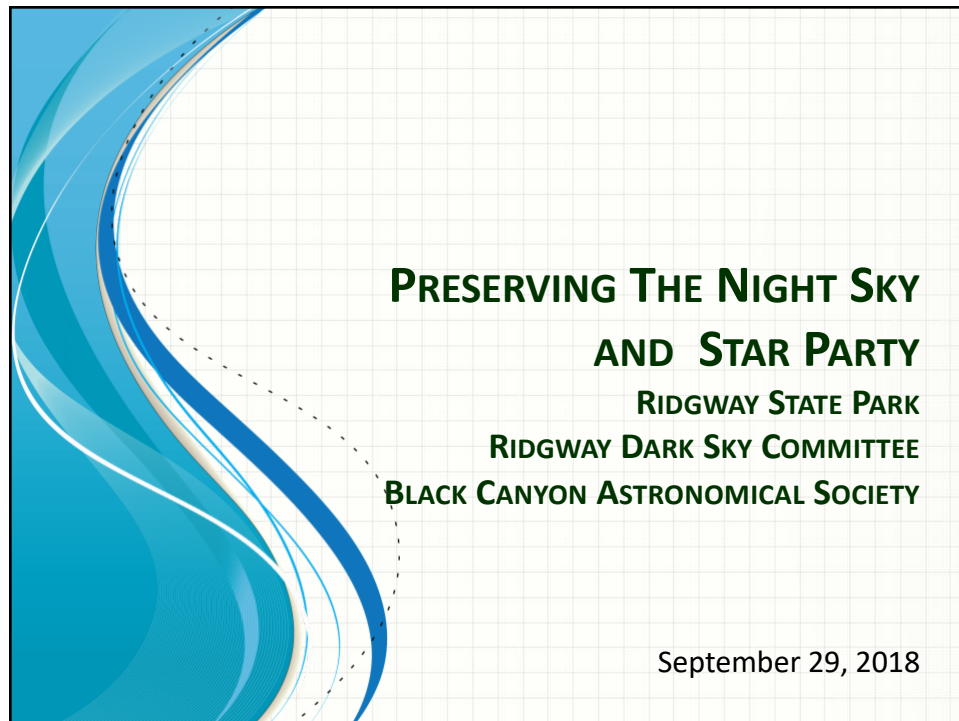
If the DSPC recommends a suspension of a Community's IDA designation and the Board ratifies the suspension, the Community administration shall be immediately notified. The status of a suspended DSC shall be changed to "Provisional" in all IDA communications until the designation is reinstated or revoked; however, the process of obtaining reinstatement of a designation is not the same as that outlined in the "Provisional Status" section of these guidelines.

To obtain reinstatement of a suspended designation, the DSC must provide evidence to the DSPC's satisfaction that the specific issues identified by the DSPC as grounds for the suspension have been corrected and that all Program guidelines are once again met. The DSPC will consider the evidence presented by the DSC and render a judgment to either

- Accept the reinstatement petition, OR
- Reject the petition and recommend revocation, OR
- Return the petition with further instructions and a defined deadline for a DSC response.

A suspension left unresolved after one (1) year from the date of the Board's assent to the suspension automatically becomes a permanent revocation. Revocation entails removal of the DSC from IDA's roll of approved Dark Sky Places, and from mention on the IDA website and in member and external communications. IDA reserves the right to take legal action against any former DSC whose designation is duly revoked but continues to use the IDA name/logo in advertising, communications, and/or signage.

## Appendix 4.1



1



2



## Ridgway Dark Sky Committee

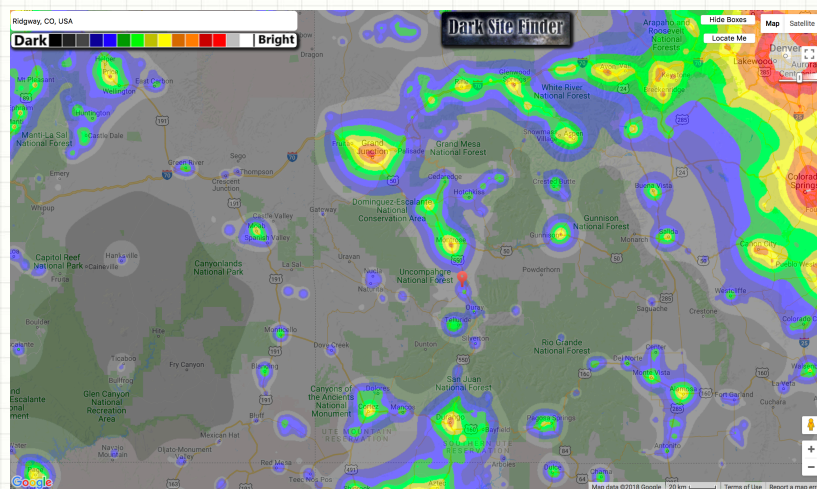
- Dark Sky advocates from Ridgway and the surrounding area
- Helping to protect the dark sky above the Ridgway area
- Working with the Town of Ridgway to be designated a Dark Sky Community by the International Dark Sky Association ([www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org))
  - Updating Ridgway's lighting regulations to be night sky friendly
  - Public education, outreach, and educational events
  - Gathering support from the community
  - Validating the dark sky above Ridgway

3

3

## Dark Sky Map for Western Co

Center Red pin marks Ridgway



4

4

## How you can help?

- Install fully shaded outdoor light fixtures
  - SMPA Energywise Newsletter
  - Online search "IDA approved light fixtures"
- Install lights with color temperatures of 3000K or less
  - Appears slightly yellow, not white or blue-white
- Use minimum brightness (lumens) lamps
  - 800 Lumens or less
- Install motion detected light fixtures

5

5

## Additional Resources

- [Losing the Dark \(video\)](#)
- [Western Colorado](#)
- International Dark Sky Association
  - [Darksky.org](#)
- [SMPA](#)

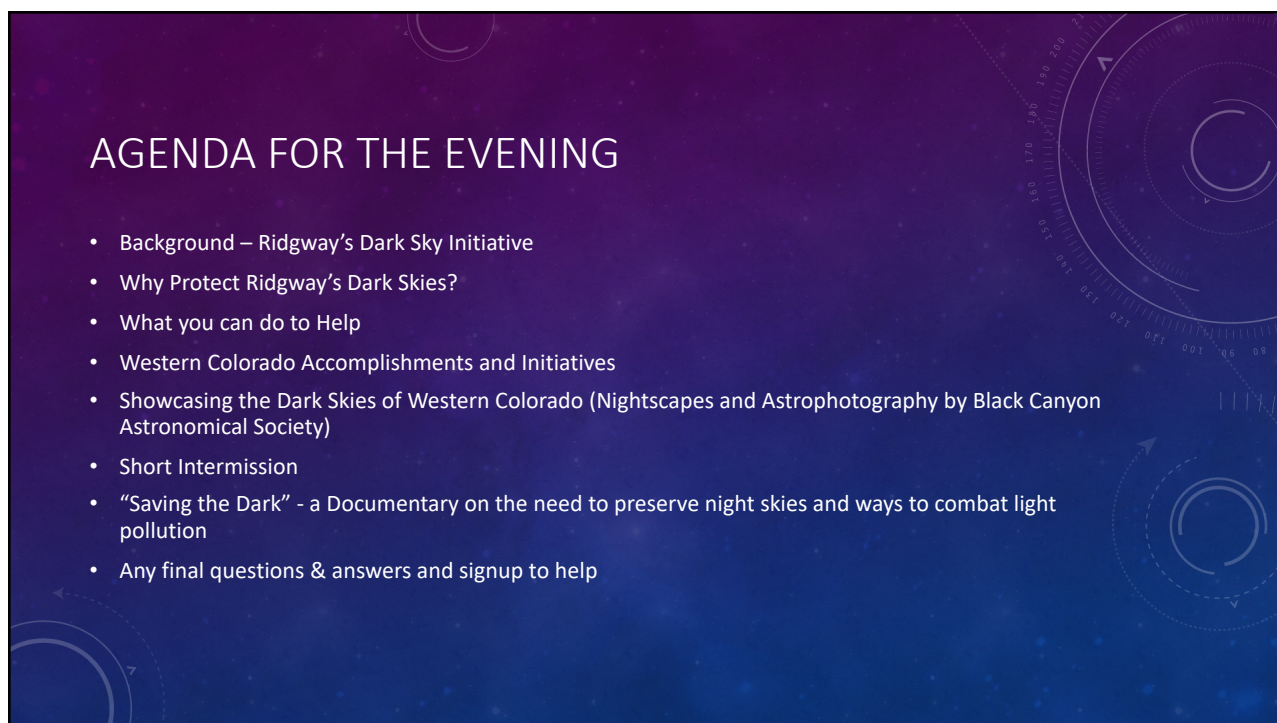
6

6

## Appendix 4.2



1



2



## BACKGROUND - RIDGWAY DARK SKY INITIATIVE

- A Ridgway grass roots Dark Sky Initiative started to take shape in February 2018
  - Objective of protecting the Dark Starry Sky above Ridgway and to build on past efforts
  - Implementation via pursuit of International Dark Sky Association (IDA) Dark Sky Designation
    - Internationally recognized Gold standard of Dark Sky protection guidelines
    - IDA criteria demonstrates a comprehensive management of light pollution, community education, and citizen involvement
- Dark Sky Protection Proposal presented to Ridgway Town Council April 11 2018
  - Unanimous Town Council Support
- Ridgway Dark Sky Committee formed under ROCC and moved forward
  - Formal nomination application for Ridgway Dark Sky Designation submitted to IDA April 2018
  - Started satisfying IDA criteria (2015) to protect the Dark Starry Skies above Ridgway

3

## WHY PROTECT RIDGWAY'S DARK SKIES

- The Dark Starry Sky is a Natural Resource that is slipping away across the country and the planet
  - Just like the clean air we breath and the clean water we drink
  - Western Colorado has one of the last dark skies in the US
- Obvious benefit is seeing the Starry Sky and Milky Way that our Native Americans enjoyed
- However many more subtle benefits that are equally important to the environment
  - Efficient use of energy by lighting only where it is needed – down and not up
  - Artificial lights at night upset circadian rhythms of humans, livestock, and wildlife
    - Use Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) lamps of 3000K or less
  - Light polluted skies can impact migration and breeding patterns of birds, sea turtles, and insects
- Protecting our environment is in Ridgway's DNA

4



## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP

- Install Dark Sky friendly lighting fixtures and bulbs
  - Fully shielded fixtures direct light down
  - 3000K CCT or less
  - Use minimum lumens for application
  - Consider using motion activated security lighting
    - Do you need a light on all night?
  - Darksky.org – IDA website has resources and links for compliant fixtures
- Join Ridgway's Dark Sky Initiative by volunteering to help satisfy IDA's Dark Sky preservation criteria

5

## WESTERN COLORADO ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INITIATIVES

- Norwood was most recently designated a Dark Sky Community by IDA
- Colorado's only two Dark Sky Parks
  - Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
  - Hovenweep National Monument
- Ridgway's effort is well along
  - Hope to submit formal application that demonstrates satisfaction of IDA 2015 criteria later in 2019
- Paonia recently organized a grass roots citizens' effort to pursue Dark Sky designation by IDA
- Rocky Mountain National Park and the Town of Estes Park are pursuing Dark Sky designation by IDA
- Colorado Chapter of IDA recently reorganized and reinvigorated as a result of IDA's updated chapter initiative

6

## Appendix 5.0

# Ridgway, Colorado Dark Sky Community Sky Quality Measurement Plan

June 30, 2018  
Valentine Szwarc

## 1.0 Background

The Ridgway Dark Sky Committee (RDSC) was organized in 2018 as a result of collaborative efforts of Val Szwarc, Dave Jones, Howard Greene, Rob Datsko, Jim Kennedy, and others. The RDSC has applied for Dark Sky Community designation from the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). With IDA designation RDSC will promote the dark sky as a community resource, helping the local economy, to foster dark sky maintenance protocols to preserve the valuable resource in the Ridgway, Colorado area, and to promote STEM education for all.

## 2.0 Objective

Quantitatively assess night sky darkness (dark quality) in the Ridgway, Colorado area to support the Ridgway Dark Sky Committee (RDSC) application for dark sky certification to the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). For IDA designation, a year of data will be accumulated. After IDA designation, monitoring data will be collected on a quarterly basis.

## 3.0 SQM Measurement Requirements

3.1 Sky darkness measurements shall be taken using handheld Unihedron SQM-L instrument(s) (20deg FOV). Longer term monitoring of sky darkness may be taken using an Unihedron SQM-LU-DL (20deg FOV, internally recording).

3.2 Sky Darkness measurements shall be taken at the following locations in the Ridgway, Colorado area. Appendix 1 lists the GPS coordinates within the data template, and Appendix 2 maps the measurement locations.

- 1) Ridgway, Co High School – just (75ft) to NE from exterior wood shop
- 2) Ridgway, Co, - New Ridgway Public Library north parking lot
- 3) Ridgway, Co - Town Park
- 4) Ridgway Soccer field – just south of Town center
- 5) Dallas Meadows – Uncompahgre Ct (2miles North of Ridgway)
- 6-8) Ad Hoc locations as opportunities arise

3.3 Sky darkness measurements shall be taken on cloudless and moonless nights. The visible moon shall be at least 1.5 hrs below the horizon as determined by the Sunrise-Sunset calculator for Ridgway CO at

<http://www.sunrisesunset.com/USA/Colorado/>

(An example calendar for November 2018 can be found in Appendix 3)

3.4 Sky darkness measurements shall be taken after Astronomical Twilight (AT) in the evening or before AT in the morning as determined by the online Sunrise-Sunset calculator for Ridgway, CO.

(Note: Astronomical Twilight varies throughout the season from about 1.5 hrs after sunset or 1.5 hrs before sunrise in the winter to about 2 hrs after sunset and 2hrs before sunrise in the summer. Reference the Sunrise-Sunset calculator for specific AT times throughout the year)

3.5 Sky darkness measurements shall be taken at 5 positions in the sky and shall include the 4 cardinal azimuth points (0, 90, 180, 270 degrees) at approximately 45deg above the horizon, plus one measurement at the zenith (90 degrees elevation).

3.6 Natural Sky objects that may be within the SQM 20deg FOV measurements, such as the Milky Way, bright planets, meteors, etc. shall be noted respective to measurements since they may impact the baseline measurements.

3.6.1 Artificial sky objects such as aircraft and surface lights shall be avoided during measurements.

3.7 Sky darkness measurements along with the following parameters shall be documented:

- SQM Instrument ID and (S/N) or unique identifier

- Date, Time and location, along with GPS coordinates and elevation

- SQM-L measurements at azimuth position (0, 90, 180, 270 deg) at 45deg angle elevation, plus the zenith.

- Instrument temperature as provided by the SQM

- Ambient air temperature as measured by car thermometer or simple handheld thermometer, or estimated using local reported by Telluride Regional Airport (TEX)

- Ground Cover: Such as trees, brush, snow, sand and or rock, percentage vegetation ground cover

- Subjective Sky quality/transparency, dust, smoke, etc.

- Observer(s) name(s)

A pre-printed blank data template will be used to insure a common format for the observations, reference Appendix 1.

3.8 SQM observational data will be archived in two places: 1) the RDSC Google Drive (access limited) and 2) the RDSC website (for public viewing).

## 4.0 Measurement Approach and Quality Control Procedures

4.1 The SQM measurements shall be made according to overall requirements specified in Section 3.0 SQM Measurement Requirements. SQM measurements will be attempted at the sites specified in section 3.2 every month (weather permitting) for an initial one year measurement period during moonless, cloudless nights according to criteria specified in section 3.3 and 3.4

4.2 If multiple SQM instruments are available, experienced observers shall take measurements quarterly (Wx permitting) with multiple instruments in an effort to inter-compare and characterize variations of measurements between instruments.

4.3 Ambient air temperature should be noted and the SQM instrument should be allowed to acclimate to ambient air temperature for 5 to 10 minutes before SQM measurements are taken. The acclimation time period is expected to vary somewhat depending on the temperature difference between ambient air and initial instrument temperatures. (The goal is to take SQM measurements after the instrument temperature has stabilized and to avoid measurements when the SQM temperature is “rapidly” changing. Holding the SQM with bare hands for extended periods of time during colder seasons should be avoided since it may impact instrument temperature.)

4.4 At least one series of 5 measurements shall be taken at each location, with the observer moving to other sites as possible with the goal of taking measurements at each site during the evening to measure any spatial variation in sky darkness in the surrounding area. (It is expected that sky darkness will be slightly darker at the sites just a few miles out of Ridgway.)

4.5 The series of 5 measurements at each site will be averaged to produce one reading of sky darkness for the corresponding site. Each available site’s sky darkness reading for the night will be plotted across the Ridgway area. Contour mapping of sky darkness measurements may be possible pending data review and analysis.

4.6 Once the SQM instrument has been acclimated to ambient air temperature, “warm” up the SQM electronics by taking a few measurements of the zenith. (Be careful to point the SQM at the same spot at the zenith) Once the zenith readings stabilize to differences of approximately a few hundreds or less of mag/square arcsec (+/-0.05) the SQM should be ready for recording measurements. (A good rule of thumb is to take 3 zenith measurements within a minute or two, discard the first two and record the third measurement. Now the SQM should be ready to complete the other measurements at the 4 cardinal points (N, E, S, W)).

4.7 Trained observers will take SQM measurements and data will be reviewed for consistency, adherence to measurement requirements, and reasonableness by the RDSC SQM Measurement Program Lead, or experienced observers.

4.8 SQM site measurements shall be recorded on a standardized hardcopy SQM Data Template, specified in Appendix 1. SQM measurements and associated metadata shall be transferred to a softcopy version of the SQM Data Template and integrated into a cumulative Master SQM spreadsheet of Measurements (MSM). The MSM softcopy version will include formulas for initial data reduction including averaging of the five SQM measurements per site to produce the site’s Sky Darkness reading.



The MSM will allow basic search, data grouping, and pivot table capabilities as provided by the native spreadsheet application such as MS Excel or Google Sheets to spot trends, measurement anomalies, and variations in sky darkness between sites, seasons, observers, and instruments.

4.9 The battery voltage of the SQM instrument will be periodically noted at the beginning and end of each evenings measurement session, and more frequently (at the beginning and ending of each evenings measurement session) during the colder winter months. The battery should be replaced if the voltage drops below 9.0V.

4.10 Quarterly sky darkness measurements (as sky conditions permit) will continue after the initial approximately one year measurement period to assess sky darkness trends in the Ridgway, Colorado area.

4.11 SQM instruments shall be held either by a RDSC board member and checked out by trained and authorized observers for measurements.

## 5.0 Documentation

5.1 Appendix 1: Sky darkness measurement along with supporting metadata parameters specified in section 3.5 shall be documented in SQM Data Template example within Appendix 1.

5.2 Appendix 2: Sky darkness measurement locations in the Ridgway, Colorado area. Lat/Long GPS coordinates for each site are located on the SQM Data Template, Appendix 1.

5.3 Appendix 3: Sunrise-Sunset Calendar example for September 2017.

## 6.0 References

Rate your Skyglow by Tony Flanders, Sky and Telescope December 5, 2008

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-resources/rate-your-skyglow/#SQM>

How to Become a Dark Sky Place:

<http://darksky.org/idsp/become-a-dark-sky-place/>

Sunrise Sunset Calendar

<http://www.sunrisesunset.com/>

Globe at Night: Using Sky Quality Meters to Measure Sky Brightness

<https://www.globeatnight.org/sqm.php> (The result of a collaborative effort between Connie Walker at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory, Chuck Bueter of nightwise.org, Anna Hurst of ASP's Astronomy from the Ground Up

program, Vivian White and Marni Berendsen of ASP's Night Sky Network and Kim Patten of the International Dark-Sky Association)

Personal communication and review by Bryan Cashion, President, Black Canyon Astronomical Society, Montrose, Colorado

## AGENDA ITEM #9



**To:** Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** February 12, 2020  
**RE:** Authorization for Mayor Clark to Sign a Letter of Support for Clearnetworkx LLC's Request for Funding from the Department of Regulatory Agencies

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**ACTION BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Council is asked to authorize Mayor Clark to sign the attached letter of support for Clearnetworkx LLC's request for funding from the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) to expand broadband services with gigabit fiber into the lower Log Hill and Colona area.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

"I move to authorize Mayor Clark to sign the letter of support for Clearnetworkx LLC's request for funding from the Department of Regulatory Agencies to expand broadband services with gigabit fiber into the lower Log Hill and Colona area."

**SUMMARY:**

In July 2019, Clearnetworkx LLC approached the Town with a request to provide a letter of support for their DORA grant to expand broadband services with gigabit fiber into the underserved part of Ouray County, specifically the Log Hill area. At the July 10, 2019 regular Council meeting, Council approved the letter of support to supplement Clearnetworkx's application. That application was ultimately successful as Clearnetworkx was awarded funding in the amount of \$2.8 million from DORA.

The Town was recently approached by Clearnetworkx with another request for a letter of support for a separate DORA grant application to expand service to the lower Log Hill and Colona area with fiber internet. Included as Attachment 1 for Council's review is the proposed letter of support. Appended to this memo as Attachment 2 is a map of the proposed service area. Their application was submitted in January to the Broadband Deployment Board. The Broadband Deployment Board was established by the Colorado General Assembly in 2014 and provides grants through the Broadband Fund to deploy broadband service in unserved areas of the state. Clearnetworkx has expressed that this is an exciting opportunity for them as they work to expand their broadband network. They have maintained that an expanded broadband network will benefit the County as a whole in many ways.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment 1 – Letter of Support  
Attachment 2 – Map of Proposed Service Area





## ATTACHMENT 1

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TOWN HALL PO Box 10 | 201 N. Railroad Street | Ridgway, Colorado 81432 | 970.626.5308 | [www.town.ridgway.co.us](http://www.town.ridgway.co.us)

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February 12, 2020

Department of Regulatory Agencies  
1560 Broadway, Suite 110  
Denver, CO 80202

**RE: Request for Funding for Lower Log Hill and Colona Area**

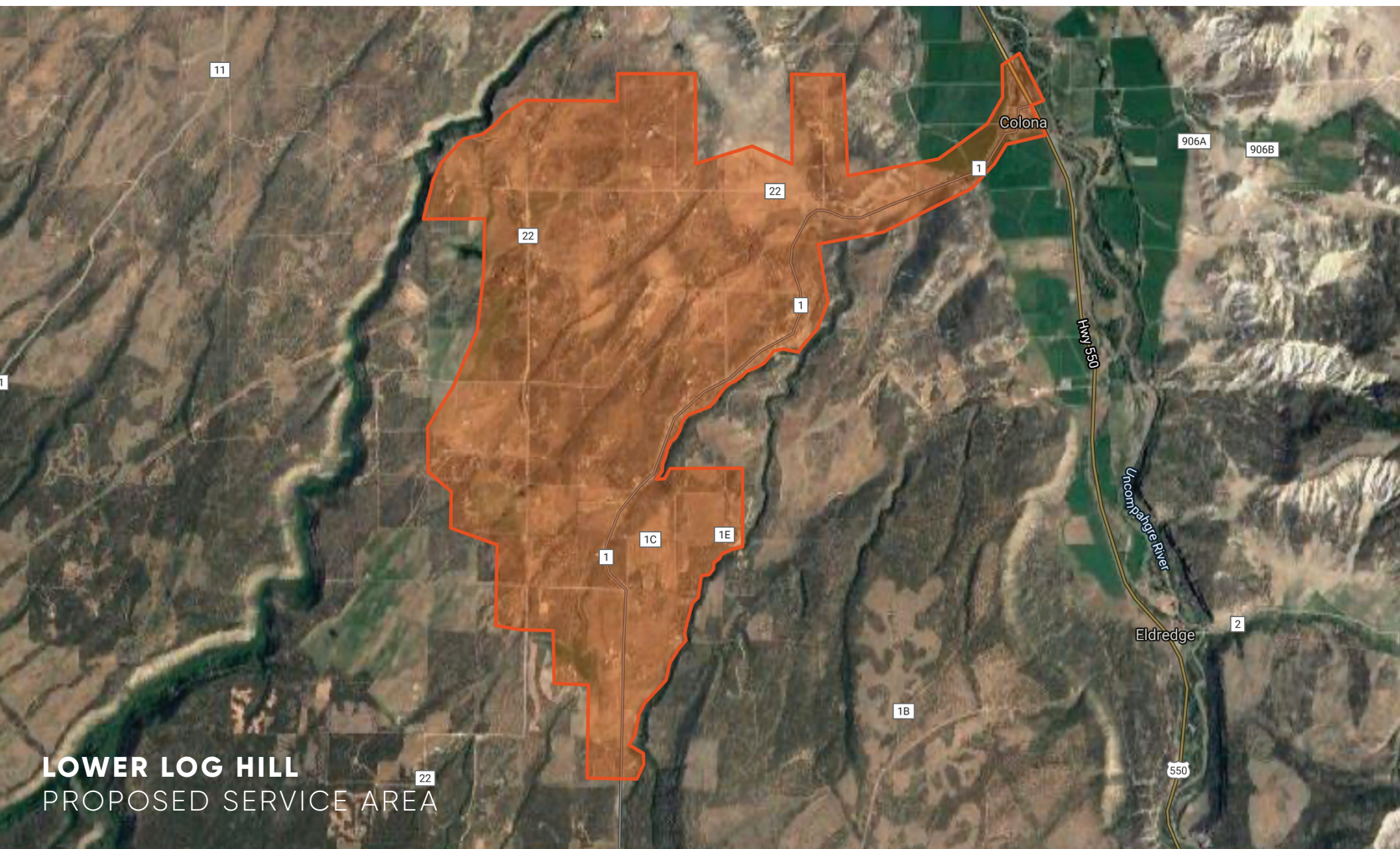
Dear Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies:

The Town of Ridgway supports Clearnetworkx LLC's request for funding in the lower Log Hill area. We believe their request is important, urgent and critical because the project will provide greatly improved broadband reliability and speed for our region, which is critical to our livelihoods and local/regional economies in rural Colorado.

We have worked tirelessly and expended significant funds to secure improved, affordable and competitive broadband services for our collective communities in Ouray County. As a rural community with very limited rural resources and economies that are challenging to sustain, broadband offers real opportunity for our residents, businesses and local government services. The DORA funding will realize the vision of Clearnetworkx, which aligns with our communities' goals and priorities for reliable, improved and affordable broadband access. We strongly encourage DORA to consider and support this request.

Sincerely,

John I. Clark  
Mayor  
On behalf of the Ridgway Town Council



**LOWER LOG HILL**  
PROPOSED SERVICE AREA



**EMAIL US**  
info@clearnetworx.com



**LEARN MORE**  
clearnetworx.com



**CALL US**  
(844) 240-6600



## AGENDA ITEM #10



**To:** Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** February 12, 2020  
**RE:** **Review and Approval of Letter of Support for Scholarship Funds to attend CML's 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

---

**ACTION BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Council is asked to review and approve a letter expressing support for Mayor Clark's attendance at the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Annual Conference to supplement Mayor Clark's CML Annual Conference Scholarship Application.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

"I move to approve the letter of support for Mayor Clark's attendance at the CML Annual Conference."

**SUMMARY:**

CML is currently accepting scholarship applications for their 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference that is taking place from June 23<sup>rd</sup> through June 26<sup>th</sup> in Westminster. The application deadline is February 19<sup>th</sup>. According to CML's website, up to 10 scholarship recipients will receive the following assistance:

- Conference registration
- Three nights basic lodging
- Meal tickets to Wednesday, Thursday and Friday ticketed breakfasts or luncheons
- Mileage reimbursement stipend

Applicants are required to submit a letter of interest explaining what they hope to gain from the 98<sup>th</sup> CML Annual Conference and how they will use the experience for the benefit of the municipality they represent. They must also include a letter from the council or board of the municipality expressing support for their attendance at the annual conference and a few sentences explaining the municipality's financial need or hardship.

Mayor Clark has expressed that he intends to submit a CML Annual Conference Scholarship Application. Attached for Council's consideration is a letter expressing support for Mayor Clark's attendance at the 2020 Annual Conference.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Letter of Support





February 12, 2020

Colorado Municipal League Scholarship Program  
1144 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: Mayor John Clark's CML Annual Conference Scholarship Application**

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to express our full support for Mayor John Clark's attendance at the 98<sup>th</sup> Colorado Municipal League Annual Conference. Mayor Clark has diligently served the Town of Ridgway in various roles for 35 years, eight of which he has served in the role of mayor. He is a valued and engaged member of our community. We feel that his presence and participation at this year's conference will be beneficial for him and the Ridgway community.

The CML Annual Conference offers educational, information-sharing and networking tools to ensure attendees are met with new ideas and strategies to manage the challenges facing local governments. We recognize the importance of professional development, not only for our Town staff, but for our elected officials as well. As a small, rural municipality located on the Western Slope, we strive to find ways to leverage our limited resources. If successful, this scholarship opportunity has presented us a chance to deploy some of the limited professional development dollars we have for someone else in our organization to take advantage of a future training or educational offering.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of Mayor Clark's CML Annual Conference Scholarship Application. Please feel welcome to reach out to Preston Neill, Town Manager, at 970-318-0081 or [pneill@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:pneill@town.ridgway.co.us) if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Eric Johnson  
Mayor Pro Tem  
On behalf of the Ridgway Town Council

## AGENDA ITEM #11



J. David Reed, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

J. David Reed | Bo James Nerlin | James D. Mahoney | Andrew M. Boyko

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MONTROSE • RIDGWAY • TELLURIDE

# Memo

To: Town of Ridgway – Town Council

From: Bo James Nerlin

CC: Mr. Preston Neill – Town Manager

Date: February 7, 2020

Re: Agenda Item No. 11 – Intergovernmental Agreement – Shared Victim Advocate Services

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In the packet is a revised Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Ridgway, the City of Ouray and Ouray County for the hiring and use of an employee of the Town of Ridgway to provide victim advocacy services to the three jurisdictions in Ouray County. The Council previously approved this agreement in December of 2019. Subsequent to the Town's approval, Ms. Carol Viner, the City and County Attorney has requested the following changes:

- Section 2(b) is added to acknowledge that with the victim advocate being an employee of the Town, the Town will be responsible for employment related expenses and taxes.
- Section 2(g) is revised to clarify that the Town's carrier insurance would be used if there was a worker's compensation claim filed.
  - o As the victim advocate has historically been an employee of the Town, 2(b) and 2(g) would apply for all Town employees, and therefore it is appropriate to extend the same to the victim advocate.
- Section 14 was added to reflect that in the event of a dispute, venue and jurisdiction are in Ouray County and the State of Colorado.
- Section 15 was added to reflect that in the event of a dispute, the parties would seek mediation before litigation.
- Section 16 was added to reflect that Agreement cannot be assigned by any of the parties.
  - o Sections 14, 15 and 16 are all rather standard contract terms.

Provided the Council is okay with the changes to the Agreement, we would ask for a Motion authorizing the Town to enter into the revised Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Ridgway, City of Ouray and Ouray County for Shared Victim Advocate Services.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**  
TOWN OF RIDGWAY, CITY OF OURAY, and OURAY COUNTY  
SHARED VICTIM ADVOCATE(S) SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into effective \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, by and between: the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (Ridgway); and the City of Ouray, Colorado (Ouray), both of which are home rule municipalities within Ouray County, Colorado and Ouray County, Colorado (County), a statutory county in the State of Colorado, (collectively the Parties or individually the Party).

**Purpose of Agreement**

- A. Section 29-20-101 C.R.S., et seq. enables the Parties to enter into Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) and authorizes each of the Parties to perform the functions described herein, as provided in Section 29-20-105 C.R.S.; and
- B. Intergovernmental agreements to provide functions or services, including the sharing of costs of such services or functions, by political subdivisions of the State of Colorado, are specifically authorized by C.R.S. 29-1-203 and encouraged in order that the inhabitants of such political subdivisions may thereby secure high quality governmental services; and
- C. Ridgway, Ouray and Ouray County each recognize the need to employ an individual to act as Victim Advocate(s), to perform victim advocacy services for all of Ouray County; and
- D. The Parties recognize the fiscal and administrative benefits of utilizing one person to conduct victim advocacy services; and
- E. The Parties wish to memorialize their understandings regarding their agreement to share the financial and administrative responsibilities and services through employing the Victim Advocate(s); and
- F. The Parties entered into similar Intergovernmental Agreements in 2018 and 2019 for the same purpose.

In consideration of the covenants and conditions contained herein, the Parties agree as follows.

- 1. **Designation of the Victim Advocate(s).** The Parties must agree to the designation of any particular person to be employed as the shared the Victim Advocate(s).
- 2. **Financial Responsibilities.** The financial responsibilities for the employment of the shared Victim Advocate(s) shall be as follows:



- a. The shared Victim Advocate(s) shall be an employee of the Town of Ridgway and not the City of Ouray or Ouray County, and shall be compensated by the Town of Ridgway partially through a grant provided by the State of Colorado for such services. The Parties recognize and understand that for the Fiscal Year 2020 the State of Colorado awarded \$21,000 for program services in Ouray County, and the cost of the program is estimated at \$39,774, creating a funding gap of \$18,774.
  - b. The Town shall be responsible for all employment related expenses mandated by state and federal law, including any required worker's compensation and unemployment insurance, any federal or state taxes or required withholdings, and any other employer expenses related to the Victim Advocates employment with the Town.
  - c. The Parties agree to work together to budget the gap funding at \$6,258 from each Party and/or identify supplemental sources in order to fund the \$18,774 gap for Victim Advocate services in 2020, pursuant to subsection e below.
  - d. The shared Victim Advocate(s), as a part time temporary employee of the Town of Ridgway, shall be compensated for any time in excess of forty (40) hours per week as provided in the Town of Ridgway's Personnel Regulations.
  - e. The shared Victim Advocate(s) shall be subject to the Town of Ridgway's Personnel Regulations, as may be amended, except the Victim Advocate(s) shall have no benefits with the Town of Ridgway, City of Ouray or Ouray County.
  - f. The Town of Ridgway has been awarded grant funding for 53% of the cost of the Victim Advocate(s) in 2020. In the event the Town of Ridgway anticipates expenses may exceed the grant award, the Town shall consult with the City and/or County to consider any additional expenditures. The City and/ or County shall only be responsible for an equal share after the Town has consulted with the City and/or County, and the financially impacted Party or Parties have agreed on the expenses to be reimbursed to the Town.
  - g. In the event of a worker's compensation claim related to work performed within the City or the County, the Town's insurance shall be responsible for the claim and the City or County shall cover the Town's reasonable expenses for that claim in the respective jurisdiction, upon notice and approval of the same.
3. **Accountability.** The accountability requirements of the shared Victim Advocate(s) to the Parties shall be as follows:
- a. The Victim Advocate(s) shall provide a monthly written report to all Parties.

- b. The Victim Advocate(s) shall meet with the Ridgway Town Marshal, Ouray Police Chief, or Ouray County Sheriff upon request by any of the Parties.
- c. The Victim Advocate(s) shall submit comprehensive daily time sheets to Ridgway by 8:00 a.m. Monday morning, following the end of each bi-weekly pay period, or whatever the policy of the Town of Ridgway may be, if amended.
- d. To protect the Parties from false claims, the Victim Advocate(s) shall keep a daily log of services conducted, on a form approved by the Parties (Exhibit A).
- e. Notwithstanding the fact that the Victim Advocate(s) is an employee of the Town of Ridgway, the Town of Ridgway shall not be responsible for supervision and oversight of the Victim Advocate(s) in performing his or her responsibilities for the City of Ouray or Ouray County as further defined in ¶ 6 herein, and within the Victim Advocate(s) Contract of Employment. Such supervision and oversight shall be the responsibility of the Ridgway Marshal, Ouray City Police Chief or Ouray County Sheriff, for services rendered within the respective jurisdiction.

4. **Performance Issues.** Any performance issues shall be handled as follows:

- a. For purposes of this Agreement, Supervising Parties are assigned as follows:

<u>Jurisdiction:</u>	<u>Supervising Party:</u>
Town of Ridgway	Town Marshal
City of Ouray	Police Chief
Ouray County	Sheriff

- b. Minor issues, those issues warranting nothing more than an oral or written reprimand, should be brought to the attention of the Victim Advocate(s) first, by the Supervising Party (Ridgway Marshal, Ouray Police Chief, Ouray County Sheriff) in the jurisdiction where the minor issue occurred. In the event said minor issues cannot be resolved, the Ridgway Town Marshal shall be contacted. Issues deemed to be minor issues according to either of the Parties shall be addressed as soon as is practical, by the designated supervisor for the Victim Advocate(s) within each municipality or County.
- c. Issues deemed to be major issues, those issues warranting more than an oral or written reprimand, by either municipality or county, and possibly requiring disciplinary action shall be subject to the Town of Ridgway's Personnel Regulations. The Supervising Party (Ridgway Town Marshal, Ouray Police Chief, Ouray County Sheriff) shall submit any information on such issues, in writing, to the Ridgway Town Marshal (if outside of the Ridgway jurisdiction), and the Ridgway Town Marshal shall contact the Primary Administrator (Ridgway Town Manager, Ouray City Administrator, and /or Ouray County Administrator) of the participating jurisdiction for review.

5. **Fiscal Reporting.** Fiscal reporting responsibilities of the shared Victim Advocate(s) shall be as follows:
  - a. None.
6. **Job Responsibilities and Oversight.** Job responsibilities and oversight for the shared Victim Advocate(s) shall be as follows:
  - a. Pursuant to a grant awarded to the Town of Ridgway by the State of Colorado Department of Public Safety, Victim Advocate(s) shall provide victim advocate services for the months of January through December 2020 for all Parties. Victim Advocate(s) shall provide 24/7 on-call coverage during the 2020 calendar year. The duties shall be rendered in Ouray County, Colorado, or at such other place or places and at such times as the needs of the Parties may from time-to-time dictate.
  - b. On behalf of all Parties, all applicable duties as assigned by the Supervising Party shall be timely performed.
  - c. The Supervising Parties shall be responsible for victim advocacy solely within their own boundaries and jurisdiction. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall place a burden or responsibility on any Party to provide services within the jurisdiction or boundaries of any other Party.
7. **Insurance.** The Parties shall, without waiving any governmental immunity protections to which they and their officials or employees are entitled under C.R.S. 24-10-101, et seq., to obtain adequate insurance to cover the liability and other risks to which they may be exposed as a result of the services to be provided pursuant to this agreement, if either of the Parties does not already have such insurance, and to maintain such insurance throughout the term of this agreement.
8. **Term-Withdrawal.** The term and withdrawal provisions applicable to this agreement are as follows:
  - a. This Agreement shall be for a period of one (1) year commencing January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020.
  - b. Subject to annual appropriation by each municipality and county to meet its obligations herein, this agreement shall be automatically renewed on an annual basis without the need to execute a new agreement unless amendments are required by either of the Parties.

- c. Either municipality may withdraw from participation in this agreement at any time by providing written notice to the other municipality, at least thirty (30) days prior to the desired date of withdrawal.
9. **Amendments.** This agreement shall not be modified or amended in any manner except by written instrument executed by the Parties.
10. **Waiver.** The waiver of any breach of any of the provisions of this agreement, by either Party, shall not constitute a continuing waiver of any subsequent breach by that Party, either of the same, or of another provision of this agreement.
11. **Severability.** Invalidation of any of the provisions of this agreement, or of any paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word herein, or the application thereof, in any given circumstance, shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Agreement.
12. **No Third Party Beneficiaries.** Nothing expressed or implied in this agreement is intended or shall be construed to confer upon, or to give any person other than the Parties hereto, any right, remedy or claim, under or by reason of this agreement.
13. **Entire Agreement.** This agreement contains the entire and only agreement between the Parties, regarding the employment of the shared Victim Advocate(s) and no oral statements or representations regarding this matter that are not contained in this agreement shall be of any force or effect between the Parties.
14. **Governing Law.** This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Colorado, both as to interpretation and performance. The courts of the State of Colorado shall have exclusive jurisdiction to resolve any disputes arising out of this agreement and venue shall be in Ouray County, Colorado.
15. **Dispute Resolution.** In the event a disagreement or dispute arises between the Parties, the matter shall be submitted to mediation. The mediation shall be conducted by one mediator selected by the Parties who will share the costs equally.
16. **Assignment.** No Party shall assign any responsibilities nor delegate any duties arising under this agreement without the prior written consent of all the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this agreement in duplicate effective the date first above written.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY

CITY OF OURAY



John Clark, Mayor

Greg Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Attest:

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Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

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Melissa Drake, City Clerk

OURAY COUNTY

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Chair, Board of County Commissioners

Attest:

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Hannah Hollenbeck, Deputy Clerk

## AGENDA ITEM #12

## TEMPORARY ACCESS AGREEMENT

THIS TEMPORARY ACCESS AGREEMENT (this “**Agreement**”), dated as of February \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 (“**Effective Date**”), is by and between the TOWN OF RIDGWAY, a home-rule municipality and political subdivision of the State of Colorado (“**Grantor**”); and ECHO PROPERTIES CORP., a Colorado corporation (“**Echo Properties**”); Railroad Depot Funding LLC, a Colorado limited liability company (“**Depot Funding**”); Ridgway Railroad Museum (“**RRM**”); and Ouray County Ranch History Museum (“**OCRHM**”) (collectively referred to hereinafter as “**Grantee**”).

### RECITALS

**A.** Echo Properties is the owner of real property comprising approximately 16.7 acres of land located in Ridgway Colorado, more particularly described on Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein, and Depot Funding is the owner of real property comprising approximately 0.6 acres of land located in Ridgway Colorado, more particularly described on Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein, (both properties combined referred to hereinafter as the “**Property**”).

**B.** The western boundary of the Property is adjacent to the eastern boundary of Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado.

**C.** RRM and OCRHM operate museums on the Property.

**D.** The Parties wish to provide for temporary access pending the potential negotiation of a long term license agreement regarding access, without prejudice to either Party’s position regarding its respective rights, claims or defenses (collectively “**Rights**”) if such agreement is not reached.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the premises and the covenants stated herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Grantor and Grantee agree as follows:

### ARTICLE 1. GRANT OF LICENSE

#### 1.1 Grant of Revocable License.

(a) Grantor hereby grants a nonexclusive revocable license to Grantee, its guests, employees, authorized agents and contractors, for ingress, egress, entry and access over the Property by way of Railroad Street at the points as further depicted on **Exhibit C**, attached hereto and incorporated herein as the N. Farm Access, the Middle Access, and the W Depot Access.

(b) This Agreement is intended and shall be construed only as a temporary license and is not intended to be a grant of an easement or any other interest in the Property.

1.2 License Revocable; Restoration of Property. Grantor shall be entitled to revoke the license granted under this Agreement at any time by written notice to Grantee.

**ARTICLE 2.**  
**ASSIGNMENT AND TERMINATION**

2.1           Assignment, Successor and Assigns. Grantee may not assign or delegate this Agreement or its rights and obligations hereunder without the prior written consent of Grantor, which may be granted or withheld in Grantor's sole discretion. This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties and their respective successors and permitted assigns.

2.2           Termination. This Agreement shall automatically terminate, without any further action of either Grantor or Grantee, on June 1, 2020.

**ARTICLE 3.**  
**MISCELLANEOUS**

3.1           Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of Colorado, excluding any conflict of law principles that would direct application of the laws of another jurisdiction. This Section shall survive indefinitely. Venue is proper in Ouray County District Court.

3.2           Authority to Enter into Agreement. Grantor and Grantee each represents and warrants to the other that it has full right, power and authority to enter into and perform this Agreement, that it has taken all requisite action to authorize the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement, and that the person signing this Agreement on behalf of the parties hereto has the full power to do so, with the effect of fully binding such party.

3.3           Further Assurances. The parties shall execute such additional documents and perform such further acts as may reasonably be necessary to give effect to the purposes of this Agreement.

3.4           Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

3.5           Recitals: The Recitals stated above are incorporated into this Agreement.

3.6           No Admission and Reservation of Rights: The Parties agree that each Party fully retains and reserves their respective Rights, which are independent of this Agreement; and nothing in this Agreement is to be construed in any way as an admission against interest or as a waiver of any Rights.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Grantor and Grantee, and each of them, has caused this Agreement to be duly executed as of the Effective Date.

*Signatures on next page.*



**GRANTOR:**

**TOWN OF RIDGWAY**, a home-rule municipality and political subdivision of the State of Colorado

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Title

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

*Grantee Signatures continued on next page* **GRANTEE:**

**RAILROAD DEPOT FUNDING, LLC**, a Colorado limited liability company

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Title

**ECHO PROPERTIES CORP.**, a Colorado corporation

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Title

**RIDGWAY RAILROAD MUSEUM**, a Colorado Non-Profit Corporation

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Title

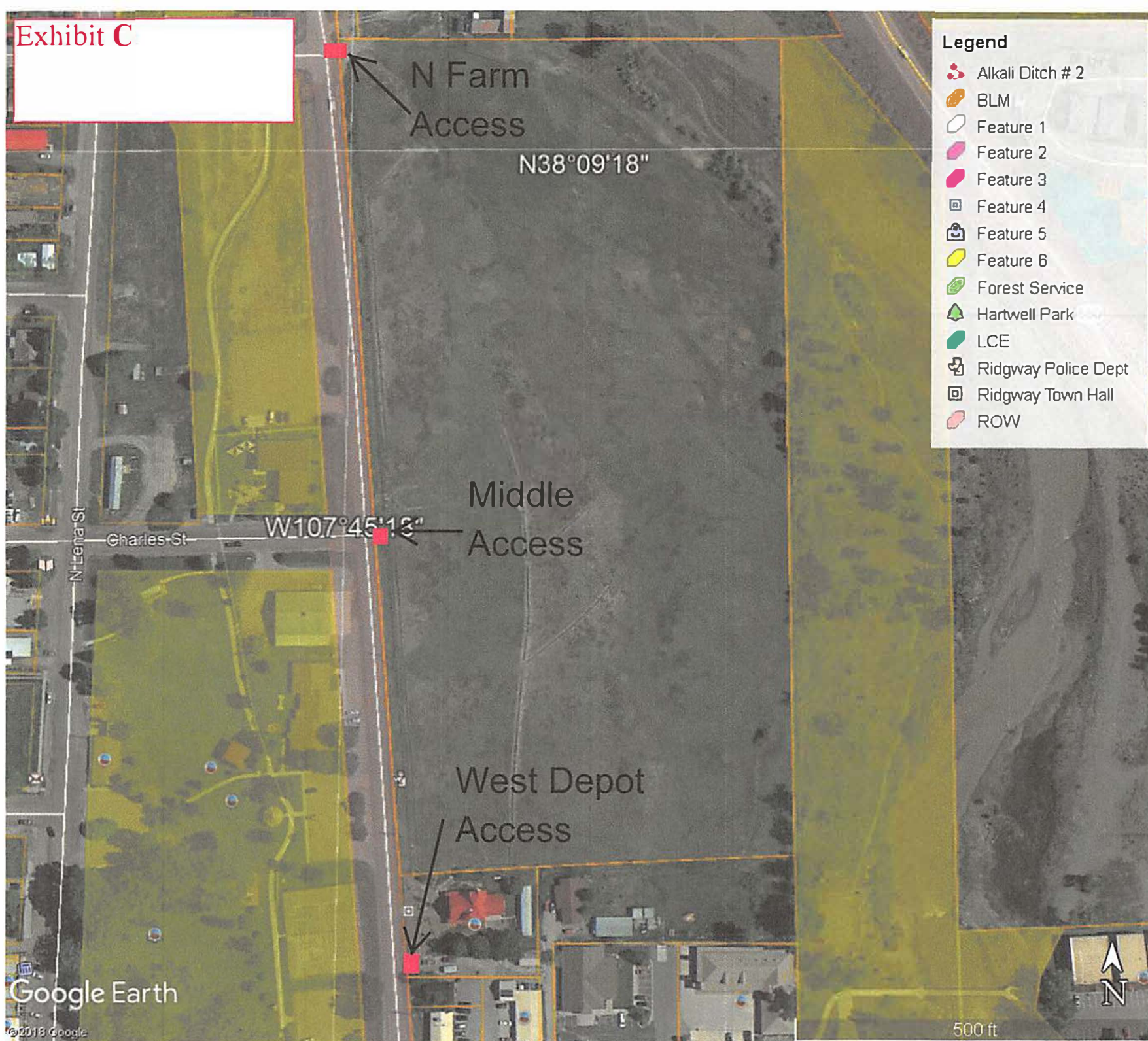
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**OURAY COUNTY RANCH HISTORY MUSEUM**, a Colorado Non-Profit Corporation

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Title

# Exhibit C



## AGENDA ITEM #13





## WRITTEN REPORT

To: Ridgway Town Council  
From: Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator  
Date: February 7, 2020  
RE: **Report on 2019 Creative Main Street Activities** (Creative District, Main Street, and Space to Create, combined)

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The purpose of this report is to update Ridgway Town Council on the work of the Community Initiatives Facilitator and associated volunteers to follow through on objectives listed in 2019 work plans for Creative Main Street.

### Heritage Park/Visitor Center Planning

- Worked with Ridgway Chamber of Commerce, stakeholders, and contractor DHM Design to develop Heritage Park/Visitor Center Strategic Master Plan, including 2 public meetings (through \$15,000 Colorado Tourism Office grant to the Chamber);
- Sought and received Colorado Main Street technical assistance (valued at \$33,510 for FY18-20) to contract with DHM Design for construction drawings to implement initial phases of improvements (landscaping, irrigation, signage, and photo opportunity space);
- Sought quotes to start landscaping and irrigation work before winter, but quotes came in too high.

### Colorado Creative Corridor (second year of \$25,000 Colorado Tourism Office Marketing Matching Grant)

- Continued to collaborate successfully with 4 other towns' creative districts/Chambers focused on statewide and regional marketing (webpage: [www.colorado.com/creative-corridor-channel](http://www.colorado.com/creative-corridor-channel));
- Local distribution of updated Ridgway business brochure for visitors and Creative Corridor brochure;
- Marketing success of the Colorado Creative Corridor (per 2019 final report), as measured by:
  - Corridor Brochure Distribution: 10,000 brochures throughout the state, including the 10 Colorado Welcome Centers;
  - Colorado.com Corridor landing page: 17,451 main page views (58% increase over 2018);
  - Colorado.com Corridor pages: 9,680 views of individual articles beyond main page;
  - Colorado.com Banners leading to Corridor page: 377,576 impressions (10% increase) and 1,575 clicks (16% increase over 2018);
  - Google Ad Post – 24-hour campaign: 6,754 clicks;
  - 5280 Magazine: total audience reach 468,000 for September print issue;
  - Corridor Facebook page: 362 followers with around 10% engagement – **Most clicked on post again went to Ridgway** for “What to Do in Ridgway” (750 reached, 93 reactions, 11 clicks);
  - Instagram for Corridor: 464 followers, averaging 25-30 likes per post;
  - Numerous mentions of Creative Corridor in other media (radio, publications).

### Community Events

- The Ridgway Creative District (RCD) Creative Advocacy Team (C.A.T.) organized 7 community events, with additional community volunteers and partners:
  - 4 popular First Fridays (June – Sept.);
  - 1 Space to Create Artwork Unveiling and Community Celebration (Oct.);
  - 2 very well-attended evenings of the Ridgway Independent Film Fest (Nov.);



- Participated in Ridgway Old West Fest by hosting a Western Art show with live music at the Treehouse Studio, plus coordinating and funding the Ute speaker;
- Partially funded 2019 Ridgway Noel Night promotions;
- Promoted numerous community events organized by other groups through Facebook and e-blasts.

#### **Master Planning** (work shared with Planner and consultants)

- Planned second community event in Feb. to prioritize draft action items;
- Kept volunteer steering committee engaged, plus held final celebration and evaluation;
- Maintained Town's Master Planning webpage and related Facebook items;
- Promoted third survey, netting 52 responses (which required citizens to review draft plan);
- Edited documents repeatedly and prepared for Planning Commission and Town Council reviews, plus additional public hearings;
- Promoted final product to community after approval and ratification (April – June).

#### **Housing – Space to Create**

- Continued Space to Create predevelopment work with Artspace, including approval of requested waivers by Planning Commission (March); prepared for June Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) 9% low-income housing tax credit application and for Sept. presentation to CHFA board - no award made; and planned for CHFA reapplication in early 2020.
- Extended predevelopment contract with Artspace and with DoLA to end of 2020.
- Implemented Colorado Creative Industries grant (\$10,000) to activate Space to Create lot with new artwork installation and public event.
- With Town Manager, presented to and garnered support of Montrose County Housing Authority.
- Attended Ouray Housing Summit (2 staff and the mayor).

#### **Education and Networking**

- Participated in trainings, webinars, and conferences for professional and volunteer development (including 2 statewide Creative District Convenings, CCI Summit with 6 volunteers, Main Street Managers Summit, and National Main Street conference in Seattle with 1 volunteer).
- Provided technical assistance to Durango Creative District start-up and presented at Western Slope Redevelopment and Reinvestment Symposium, Durango.

#### **Volunteer Group Transitions**

- 2019 Changes in membership for RCD C.A.T.:
  - 1 who joined and received orientation (Jen Randolph);
  - 2 who resigned (Jen Randolph, Paula Marlatt);
- Annual retreat held in November with external facilitator.

#### **Collaboration with Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce**

- Heritage Park/Visitor Center planning efforts (see above);
- Creative Corridor content for Corridor webpage;
- 2020 grant match costs split with Chamber for CTO Creative Corridor grant award (Year 3);
- Communicated regularly regarding joint items of interest.

#### **Communications**

- Prepared for Open House on Single Use Plastics Ordinance and for its implementation in June;
- Utilized website, Facebook, and newsletter to publicize information to community.



## AGENDA ITEM #14



## WRITTEN REPORT

**To:** Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** February 12, 2020  
**RE:** Town Manager's Report

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This report serves as an update to Council on key projects, activities and community issues.

### **VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT PROGRAM GRANT**

From Shane Schmalz, Marshal:

Since the inception of the Ouray County Victim Advocate Program, it has been funded with Local Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Program funds. This program provides grant funding to agencies that provide services to crime victims within Local Judicial Districts. For us that's the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The first year we received what we asked for to cover all costs associated with the program. In 2019 we requested \$38,000 and only received \$28,000. The rest of the cost was split between three agencies, including the Town of Ridgway, the City of Ouray and Ouray County. For 2020, we again asked for the full amount of the money and were awarded \$21,000. During the grant funding hearing, we were told that the agencies within the county needed to partner with the program and show more buy-in. Also, concerns were raised by the VALE Board as to the high cost of victim services. Due to our geographic challenges and the proximity to services, the cost in our area is elevated compared to more populated areas.

We feel that we need to find a more consistent funding source, especially with VALE funding being more geared toward training and not operational costs. We came across a Victims of Crime Acts (VOCA) Grant which is on a two-year cycle for 2021 and 2022. It is a federal grant and we qualify for funding for victim services. The grant application is due February 18, 2020 and we are in the process of completing the application. We are hoping the grant will cover most of the operational costs of the program for the two years. As part of the grant, there is a 25% match requirement that allows us to use in kind services, volunteer services and VALE grant funds to offset this. We hope that this will reduce the cost to the three agencies in the county. We respectfully request Council's support of the grant. The grant process is fairly quick, and we recently attended a class aimed at assisting us with completing the grant application and helping us to better understand the nuances. The class was on January 23, 2020. With the due date only a few days away, we are excited to finish preparing the grant application for submittal. Please feel free to call me with any questions related to this grant opportunity. Thank you.

### **RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE – LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT APPLICATION**

Staff worked with Artspace to prepare another funding application to submit to the Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) for low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC) to support the Ridgway Space to Create Project. Feedback received from CHFA on the 2019 LIHTC application proved valuable as the project was adjusted to accommodate their comments and suggestions. Earlier this week, Andrew Michaelson, Director of Property Development for Artspace, and Will Law, Chief Operations Officer for





Artspace, visited Ridgway and met with staff to debrief about the application and discuss next steps. Staff plans to use our communication channels to inform the public about the status of the project. An idea was floated to hold a public meeting in March to discuss the status of the Space to Create project and answer questions from members of the public. Everyone in attendance liked the idea and we agreed to further explore it and identify dates in March when Artspace reps can visit Ridgway again. Artspace will be in regular communication with Town staff in the coming weeks as they learn more from CHFA about milestone dates, including a date for award announcements.

### **COLORADO MAIN STREET 2020 MINI-GRANT**

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator

As planned and budgeted, Ridgway Main Street is ready to apply for its \$5,000 Colorado Main Street (COMS) 2020 mini-grant to implement landscaping and irrigation improvements at Heritage Park. Signage on the Visitor Center building will be prepared and paid for by the Chamber. The 2019 COMS mini-grant for \$5,000 was extended, and the two grants will both be applied to this project.

Ridgway Main Street also submitted its application to become a Graduate Main Street community at the end of January. If approved in April by COMS, the 2021 mini-grant should increase to \$10,000 annually.

### **2020 CENSUS**

As mandated by Article I, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution, every ten years the Census Bureau counts the entire population of the country. The Census Bureau also collects demographic information such as group living situations, sex, age and race of each person. The Town of Ridgway has a vested interest in achieving an accurate and complete census because the results:

- Determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Affect the distribution of over \$675 billion in federal and state funding each year
- Are used to draw political districts
- Inform master planning, public safety, emergency preparedness and other Town projects.
- Assist residents as they use the results to support community initiatives

The Census Bureau is implementing new technology to make it easier than ever to respond to the Census. For the first time, people will be able to respond online, by phone, as well as by mail.

Over the next few months, Town staff will work to inform our residents about the importance of the Census in local affairs, while working to achieve a complete and accurate count of all persons in our community. We've learned that Census engagement is not one-size fits all. There are a variety of reasons people don't participate in the Census and it will be important for us to tailor our outreach strategies to be as effective as possible. Shay Coburn recently secured grant funding to cover the cost of producing a variety of 2020 Census outreach materials including flyers, business cards and a banner.

Responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Answers can only be used to produce statistics. By law, all responses to U.S. Census Bureau household and business surveys are kept completely confidential.



Remaining Key Milestones for the 2020 Census:

- **March 2020**—The public can begin responding to the 2020 Census online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). Replying by mail or phone will also be an option.
- **April 2020**—Every 10 years, we observe Census Day on April 1.
- **June 2020 through July 2020**—Census takers go door to door to count people who have not responded to the 2020 Census. Census takers are Census Bureau employees and will provide proof that they are official government personnel.
- **December 31, 2020**—By this date, as required by law, the Census Bureau reports to the President of the United States the population count and the apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives to each state.
- **2021**—Initial 2020 Census data are made available to the public on [census.gov](https://census.gov).

For more information about the 2020 Census, please visit [www.census.gov](https://www.census.gov).

#### **RIDGWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITY MASTER PLAN**

The Ridgway Board of Education has hired RTA, an architectural firm out of Colorado Springs, to facilitate the school district's facility master plan. RTA has worked extensively with school districts throughout Colorado including Ouray, Lake City, Pagosa Springs, and Ignacio and they have an outstanding reputation.

It has been over 15 years since the last district master plan work took place. The goal of this master plan is to identify facility improvement priorities that may include renovations, new construction and/or additions to current facilities. They need to understand how their school facilities can best support 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and align with the district vision and strategic plan.

Mayor Clark and I were invited to participate on a small Planning Advisory Team composed of district staff, Board of Education members, students, parents and community members. The Planning Advisory Team will work closely with RTA this spring.

The first Planning Advisory Team meeting was held on January 30<sup>th</sup> and the next meeting is on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The culmination of the process will take place at the beginning of May when an overview of the master planning process and recommendations will be presented to the Ridgway Board of Education.

#### **SAFETY FLAGS AT HIGHWAY 62 CROSSWALKS**

Staff has reached out to traffic and safety engineers at CDOT to inquire about their process for considering safety enhancements or speed mitigation devices in specific areas along CDOT right-of-way. At the last Council meeting, Council expressed interest in seeing safety flags installed at more of the crosswalks on Sherman St./Highway 62 since the safety flags at the Lena St. crosswalk have been very well received. Staff will update Council once we hear back from CDOT.

#### **GUNNISON VALLEY TPR MEETING**

I recently attended a Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region Committee meeting at Region 10 in Montrose. The Committee received updates on current transportation projects and discussed developing transportation needs. The group received a presentation from Elijah Henley, Transportation Planning Team Lead at Federal Highway Administration. He provided details on the Federal Lands



Transportation Program, which aims to improve the transportation infrastructure owned and maintained by a variety of Federal Lands Management Agencies.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Town Offices Closed** – February 17, 2020 in observance of President's Day
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – February 25, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center
- **Regular Town Council Meeting** – March 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – March 31, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center

#### **JOKE OF THE DAY**

Why do seagulls fly over the sea?

Because if they flew over the bay, they would be bagels.