



**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** February 14, 2024  
**RE:** **Town Manager's Report**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This monthly report serves as an update to the Town Council on key projects, activities, and community issues.

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR MASTER PLAN FOR GREEN STREET PARK**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Ridgway, Colorado will accept proposals from qualified and experienced individuals or firms to submit proposals to provide a plan, process, and approach for the public engagement and master planning for a parcel known as the Green Street Park.

Two (2) paper copies printed double sided and one (1) electronic copy of the proposal in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with "Request for Proposal for Master Plan for Green Street Park" and the name, address and phone number of the Proposer will be received by the Town Clerk at Town Hall, 201 N. Railroad St., PO Box 10, Ridgway, CO 81432 until 10:00 a.m., local time, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2024, at which time all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any proposal received after the time stated above will be returned to the Proposer unopened.

The full Request for Proposal can be viewed [HERE](#).

### **RIDGWAY MARSHAL'S OFFICE END OF YEAR REPORT 2023**

Marshal Schmalz has provided an update regarding statistics and notable events in 2023. Click [HERE](#) to check it out.

### **ADOPT A HIGHWAY**

The Ridgway Town Council has committed to picking up trash and litter along Hwy 62 from milepost 20 to 22 for another two years! The commitment is to pick up litter a minimum of two times each year. The new agreement with CDOT expires in January of 2026. All participating group members will have to view the Spruce Up Colorado Volunteer Safety Video and Meth Lab Waste Recognition Video prior to any planned pick-ups. The next clean up event will be scheduled for the spring!

### **GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON PROJECT UPDATE**

The Town has received a letter from CDPHE indicating that the Town's Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) system meets or exceeds the requirements of the *State of Colorado Design Criteria For*



*Potable Water Systems* and is approved. Subsequent to receiving the approval letter, the Town issued a *Notice to Proceed* to Filtrtech Systems, Inc. to begin constructing the GAC system.

### **TOWN SEEKING A PART-TIME, CONTRACTED FACILITY COORDINATOR**

The Town of Ridgway is seeking a qualified individual to be responsible for facility coordination services for the Decker Community Room, located at 675 Clinton St. in Ridgway.

The purpose of the Decker Community Room is to nurture community vitality by providing an accessible, flexible multi-purpose community space for Ridgway residents and visitors to gather, share their creative work, exchange ideas, and build community. The Town of Ridgway intends for the Decker Community Room to be accessible to the community, transparent and fair in its policies and procedures, community-engaged in programming and decision making, well-maintained, aesthetically pleasing, and functional for a wide variety of community uses.

The duties of the selected individual shall be to coordinate public art installations and activities, volunteers, and space maintenance. The successful candidate is expected to be self-motivated, dedicated, driven, experienced and knowledgeable in all topics related to facility coordination. The successful candidate is also expected to have the ability to perform independently at a high level and work exceptionally well in a team and community-focused environment. More details for the opportunity can be found [HERE](#).

The services to be performed are those of an independent contractor and not as an employee of the Town. It is anticipated that the responsibilities will generally average approximately 10 hours per week.

### **ECOACTION PARTNERS ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

To check out 2023 highlights in EcoAction Partners 2023 annual report, click [HERE](#).

### **SMPA GREEN FUND IMPACT REPORT 2023**

A new report has been produced by EcoAction Partners for SMPA to help educate and highlight the benefits and positive impacts of SMPA's Green Fund. Check it out [HERE](#).

### **OURAY COUNTY, OURAY AND RIDGWAY DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN**

In an effort to enhance the safety and well-being of its residents, Ouray County is in the process of creating a comprehensive evacuation plan for the City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and the unincorporated areas of the county. Recognizing the importance of preparedness in the face of potential emergencies, the County is committed to creating a robust plan that addresses the unique needs and challenges of this area.

Evacuation plans are critical to support the safety and security of where we live and work. Natural disasters, unforeseen emergencies, and evolving threats require communities to be proactive in



safeguarding their residents. An effective evacuation plan ensures a swift and organized response, minimizing risks and ensuring the safety of all community members. The development of this evacuation plan is a collaborative effort involving local emergency services, government agencies, and community stakeholders. By engaging in this process, you can help create a comprehensive and inclusive plan that considers the diverse needs of our communities.

Anyone who lives or works in the area is encouraged to take part in the survey available at <https://arcg.is/Cy1Xr> and share their insights, experiences, and suggestions regarding evacuation procedures.

Residents are urged to complete the survey and provide their valuable input before March 15, 2024.

### **COLORADO'S NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR STATEWIDE RECYCLING HAS BEEN PUBLISHED**

The final draft of Colorado's Needs Assessment report for statewide recycling has been published, and the Department is now accepting feedback on this report. Circular Action Alliance (CAA) initiated this study as part of Colorado's Producer Responsibility Program for packaging and paper products. The needs assessment is an in-depth study that assessed Colorado's existing recycling systems and identifies opportunities for improving recycling and collection rates of covered materials.

CAA contracted HDR Engineering, Inc. and Eunomia Research & Consulting, Inc. (HDR team) to independently collect and analyze the data required to assess the state's recycling system and needs. To support this assessment, the HDR team gathered data from organizations involved in Colorado's recycling ecosystem related to the following key elements:

- Access to services
- Recycling services costs
- Demographic factors & other variables
- Contamination at MRFs & compost facilities
- Non-residential service availability, gaps & costs
- Processing capacity opportunities & costs
- Minimum recyclables list
- Markets
- Innovative technologies
- Reuse & refill
- Education
- Potential recycling scenarios
- Compost facilities



The final report will form the basis for a producer responsibility recycling program plan in Colorado.

Feedback is being sought on the draft needs assessment report through February 19<sup>th</sup>. Feedback can be submitted by emailing [eprcomments@state.co.us](mailto:eprcomments@state.co.us) with the subject "Needs Assessment Feedback".

For more information about the program, please visit the [Producer Responsibility Program webpage](#).

### **RED MOUNTAIN ELECTRICAL RELIABILITY AND BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, 2024 HIGHWAY IMPACTS**

**From San Miguel Power Association:**

Dear Ouray or Silverton Stakeholder:

In an effort to keep you informed on our Red Mountain Electrical Reliability and Broadband Improvement Project, we'd like to offer the following update regarding travel impacts for the coming summer season.

In early June, our contractor is planning to begin work on the re-construction of 4.5 miles of 44kV transmission line between the Idarado and Red Mountain electrical substations. The work will include the replacement of existing line and structures. The travel impacts of this work are anticipated to be far lower than that of the Vegetation Management phase that was completed in 2021.

It's important to note that the good weather that enables construction in the mountains, is the same good weather that brings tourists. We are planning to operate between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and these holds are likely to affect visitors on their way into and out of the mountain communities. Fortunately, the holds should be less than 15 minutes each and, since there's no scheduled work on the weekends, nor over the 4th of July holiday, the impact on economic activity should be minimal.

We want to invite you to communicate with us, during this planning stage, about any concerns you may have. Remember, this project is designed to enhance power reliability in an area prone to rockfalls, avalanches and other natural interruptions. It will also contribute to the overall expansion of fiber-optic cable, adding high-speed communications options throughout the region.

Silverton residents will also want to keep in mind that SMPA and Tri-state are currently refining the schedule for substation improvements that will take place in Silverton and San Juan County



this summer. Details on the schedule for this work, which will require up to one 6-hour outage followed by one shorter outage 6-8 weeks later, will be forthcoming.

We appreciate the partnership of our member communities and we commit to open and proactive communication as we continually endeavor to improve service to all our members. Thank you.

Jeremy Fox  
Chief Operating Officer,  
San Miguel Power Association

### **NEW SPEED RADAR TRAILER HAS ARRIVED**



### **GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION – REGION 5 UPDATE**

#### **Upcoming Projects:**

US 550 Pacochupuk South Mobility & Billy Creek Safety Improvements- 23601

Budget: \$14 million

Funding Type: SUR/SB-267

Awarded: FNF Construction, Inc.



This project will take place on US 550 in Ouray County, between approximately MP 106 and 114.5, just north of the Ridgway State Park entrance. The scope of work includes limited shoulder widening, repairing existing deer fencing and connecting new deer fencing to the existing at MP 212.5. A large animal underpass will be constructed at Billy Creek, between MP 114 and 115. HMA patching will take place between Pacochupuk campground and the CR 8 intersection and passing lanes will be added. This project has been awarded. Construction to begin in Spring 2024.

#### SH 145 MP 63.4 Wall Replacement- 24148

Budget: \$3.7 million

Funding Type: Walls

Awarded: Hank Williams, Inc.

This project will take place on SH 145 near Ophir, at approximately MP 63.4. At this location, there are two wooden walls that will be replaced. This project has been awarded and construction is planned for Spring 2024.

#### R5 FY22 Chain Stations- 24425

Budget: \$5.2 million

Funding Type: Freight

Awarded: Hank Williams, Inc.

This chain station project will be located on SH 145 in San Miguel County, as well as US 160 Wolf Creek Pass and La Veta Pass, and SH 17 Cumbres Pass. Four new chain stations will be constructed. In addition to chain stations, 4 VMS signs will be replaced in both Region 3 and Region 5. This project originally went to Ad in February 2023. The bids came in too high and were rejected. The project was repackaged for re-advertisement and has been awarded. Construction planned for Spring 2024.

### **HOUSE BILL 24-1152, CONCERNING INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS INTRODUCED**

#### **From Colorado Municipal League:**

A new bill in the House, HB24-1152, concerning Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), raises some concerns about home rule and local control. While we share the state's goal of expanding housing options, this bill encroaches on traditional land use and zoning authority of home rule municipalities. As it is currently written, HB24-1152 suggests municipalities haven't been proactively addressing ADUs and affordable housing, which simply isn't true. Many of you have implemented or are working on innovative solutions tailored to your local needs. We continue to believe strong ADU policy should be built on partnership, not preemption. CML respectfully requests opposition, unless the bill is amended.

Help shape ADU policy in a way that respects local voices and empowers communities to find solutions that work for them by:

- Reviewing CML's position paper on [HB24-1152](#).



- Reading the [complete bill](#).
- Contact your state lawmakers to engage in the dialogue and voice your concerns.

### **COLORADO PROPERTY TAX COMMISSION – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS**

Colorado's Commission on Property Tax was created to study and make recommendations for a property tax structure that protects property owners and residential tenants from rising property taxes while meeting the needs of governments that rely on property tax to pay for local services. To do this well, Commission members want to hear directly from Coloradans to better understand priorities, concerns, and ideas related to the unique challenges communities are facing with the state's current property tax structure.

To find out meeting dates and locations, or to register to attend virtually, click [HERE](#).

### **GMUG SEEKS COMMENTS ON MIXED ABANDONED MINE LANDS PROJECT**

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District, in partnership with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, is seeking public comments for the Ouray Mixed Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Physical Safety Closures Project. This project proposes to close 11 inactive mine openings along National Forest System Road (NFSR) #853–Campbird road, NFSR #855.1A–Portland road, NFSR #871–Dexter Creek road, NFSR #857–Cow Creek road and South Pinecrest Drive in Ouray. The sites are all within a 6-mile radius of Ouray, Colorado. The project is currently planned for summer 2024.

Closure methods for this project may include backfill, metal grate, cable net, bulkhead, polyurethane foam and corrugated steel pipe installations. The closures will eliminate safety hazards to the public while preserving natural and cultural resources. Bat-friendly ladders, slot gates or exclusionary methods will be used at all sites considered to have the potential for bat roosting habitat.

Comments may be:

- Emailed to [Lindsey.Binder@usda.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Binder@usda.gov).
- Mailed to Ouray Ranger District, Attn: Lindsey Binder, 2505 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401.
- Delivered to the Ouray Ranger District during business hours, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Faxed to 970-240-5367.

Comments for the Ouray Mixed AML Physical Safety Closures Project will be accepted through March 1, 2024. For additional information, contact Lindsey Binder at (970) 318-6516 or [Lindsey.Binder@usda.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Binder@usda.gov). A full project description can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65508>.



### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – February 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – February 20, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Youth Advisory Council Meeting** – February 27, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – February 27, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee Meeting** – March 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – March 6, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – March 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

### **JOKE OF THE DAY**

From Polly Kroger, Council member:

You know the best thing about elevator jokes?

They work on so many levels.

Bonus Joke

From Russ Meyer, Mayor Pro-Tem:

There is a fine line between a numerator and a denominator.

Only a fraction of people will find this funny.

Bonus Bonus Joke:

Man: “My wife is going into labor! What should I do?”

Doctor on the phone: “Is this her first child?”

Man: “No, this is her husband.”