



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: November 13, 2024
RE: Town Manager's Report

INTRODUCTION

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

SERVICE LINE MATERIAL NOTIFICATIONS

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) received our initial lead service line inventory required under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. Since our system has at least one line that is classified as lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or unknown we were required to distribute a consumer notification of service line material to the specific customers with lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or unknown service line by hard copy delivery by November 15, 2024. This has been completed. A repeat notice to the customer is required each year until we are able to classify their service line material as non-lead.

We have applied for free, no-cost technical assistance to complete the physical verification process. If the application is successful, the CDPHE Lead and Copper Technical Assistance Program will provide incorporation of additional records and self-assessment surveys from customers. Depending on availability, physical verification services may be provided. This may include potholing and visual inspections within the structure of the service address.

WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

Earlier this year, to sustain the wastewater surveillance system in Colorado CDPHE switched to a sentinel surveillance site (SSS) model on August 1, 2024. This model includes twenty wastewater utilities with ten of the largest utilities (two of which have multiple plants) in each of the ten all-hazard and emergency management response regions, three additional utilities in the Denver metro area, and four utilities in high tourism areas.

Ridgway's wastewater treatment plant is not a part of the SSS model. However, CDPHE expressed that they would like to maintain the framework for a statewide wastewater surveillance system and invited us to join their emergency wastewater surveillance system (ESS). This system will be activated when a rapid public health response is needed, and surveillance is necessary at more than the sentinel surveillance sites.

The Town will participate in the ESS program and has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with CDPHE that outlines the roles and responsibilities for ESS.



Town staff met with Kristin Kelley, Ouray County Public Health (OCPH) Director, last month to discuss the possibility of continuing regular wastewater testing. OCPH has some grant funding available through mid-next year that could potentially fund additional testing at the wastewater treatment facilities in Ridgway and Ouray. Staff expressed a willingness to participate and are standing by to learn about next steps.

ARTSPACE RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE BUILDING PUBLIC ART COMPONENT UPDATE

The Ad Hoc Review Committee met on November 8th to review the revised design that was provided by the selected artist, Yulia Avgustinovich. The Committee had one additional minor revision to suggest to Yulia and she is slated to finalize the design in the coming weeks. Upon receipt of the finalized design, staff will work to get an agreement in place with Yulia.

To make this project happen in 2025, the Town needs to reflect an expenditure in the FY 2025 Annual Budget and a work plan item for this project in the 2025 Strategic Plan. Upon successful appropriation for the project in 2025, the Town will hold a “kick-off meeting” with Yulia in early 2025. The aim is for the mural to be painted in about a three-week time frame in late May and early June, depending on weather conditions.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

The Ad Hoc Review Committee tasked with reviewing submitted applications for the 2025 Town of Ridgway Community Grant Program and making funding recommendations to the Town Council met on November 12th. Committee members include Arielle Bielak, Sue Husch, Marissa Mathis, Michelle Montague, Preston Neill and Becky Schmitz. The collective review focused on the review criteria included in the application materials. A summary of all funding requests and the Committee’s recommendations will be forwarded to the Town Council and will be considered at the Budget Workshop scheduled for November 21st. At that meeting, direction will be requested for final preparation of the FY2025 Budget.

DUCTILE IRON PIPE REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The Town’s direct loan through the DWRP Loan Program has been executed. The Town’s loan, in the principal amount of \$650,000.00 for 20 years at an interest rate of 3.25% for replacing the aging ductile iron pipe that connects the Town's treated water tank to the original pressure reducing station, was executed on November 1, 2024. The Town is now working to issue the Notice of Award to Ridgway Valley Enterprises, Inc. for the project.





GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON PROJECT UPDATE

Staff is in the process of installing the plumbing for the new Granular Activated Carbon system. The system should come online in the next few months, which means the chlorine dioxide machine (color, taste, and odor pretreatment) will be removed from our water treatment process.



FIREHOUSE GREENHOUSE UPDATE

The Town has received a number of complaints about the lights within the new greenhouse at the Firehouse property. We are in the process of working with the property owner to get the issues addressed.

SNEFFELS ENERGY BOARD ENERGY CODE COHORT

EcoAction Partners (EAP) received a grant from the Colorado Energy Office for the Energy Code Adoption & Enforcement Grant Program. As part of this work, EAP engaged with Lotus Engineering & Sustainability and NORESKO to align our region on an approach and code package for 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) adoption.

This Code Cohort, of which the Town of Ridgway is a member, kicked off in October. The second meeting of the Energy Code Cohort is December 18th. These meetings are planned once per month through March of 2025 to discuss, deliberate, and align on a consistent code package based on the 2024 IECC to adopt as a region. Following the meetings to discuss and align on the 2024 IECC adoption, the Lotus and NORESKO team will draft a code package that captures the intention of the code discussions in the Cohort meetings. After the code package is drafted, EAP will work with each participating jurisdiction to review it with external community stakeholders and internally in each of the jurisdictions to provide feedback. Based on the internal reviews and public engagement, a final code package will be drafted and shared with all participating jurisdictions for adoption. EAP anticipates that the final code package will be ready for adoption in mid-summer of 2025.

BRUIN WASTE MANAGEMENT COMPOST PICKUP

Bruin Waste Management is now offering their compost pickup services to commercial and HOA customers in Ridgway! Their [Compost Hub](#) has more information about this service and a link to sign up! For questions, reach out directly to Rob at Bruin Waste at rob@bruinwaste.com.



NOTICE OF VACANCY ON THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD

Notice is hereby given that an opening exists on the Town of Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board. Members must be residents of Ouray County and be able to attend a night meeting once per month. To apply please, email a letter of interest to Debra Overton, Deputy Treasurer, at doverton@town.ridgway.co.us. The submittal deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2024. Please call 970-626-5308x221 with any questions.

RED MOUNTAIN ELECTRICAL RELIABILITY AND BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT COMPLETES FIRST CONSTRUCTION PHASE

From San Miguel Power Member Newsletter:

The electrical transmission power line that traverses Red Mountain Pass along US 550, is being re-built in order to continue to serve as backup power source for consumers in the communities of Ouray County.

In 2022 and 2023, SMPA contractors conducted vegetation removal which cleared the work zone while mitigating fire risk in the area. This year, contract crews re-constructed 4.5 miles of 44kV transmission line between the Idarado and Red Mountain electrical substations. The work included the replacement of existing line / structures with new, environmentally-tailored structures that will improve system reliability. Next year, some areas of Red Mountain line section 1, from Ouray to the Red Mountain Substation are tentatively scheduled to take place.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – November 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Youth Advisory Council Meeting** – November 18, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – November 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Decker Community Room and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Budget Workshop** – November 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – November 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Workshop (IF NECESSARY)** – December 3, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom



- **Tri-Agency Dinner (hosted by Ouray County)** – December 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ouray County 4H Events Center
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – December 10, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – December 11, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Holiday Party!** – December 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Bella Vino

JOKE OF THE DAY

From Josey Scoville, Council member:

I saw someone dragging a clam on a leash this morning.

It must be hard to walk with a pulled mussel.