



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: September 12, 2023
RE: Town Manager's Report

INTRODUCTION

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

ATHLETIC PARK MASTER PLANNING PROJECT

The Town and DHM Design will hold a second public meeting for the Ridgway Athletic Park master planning process on Monday, September 18th at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting is for members of the public and various stakeholder groups to view and provide feedback on the park layout concepts that have been developed by DHM Design.

UPCOMING UNCOMPAHGRE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

Unc Watershed Cleanup at Ridgway State Park

Wednesday, September 27th from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. A volunteer event to improve riparian areas of the park. Hosted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. [Info and registration.](#)

Watershed Restoration in the Upper Unc

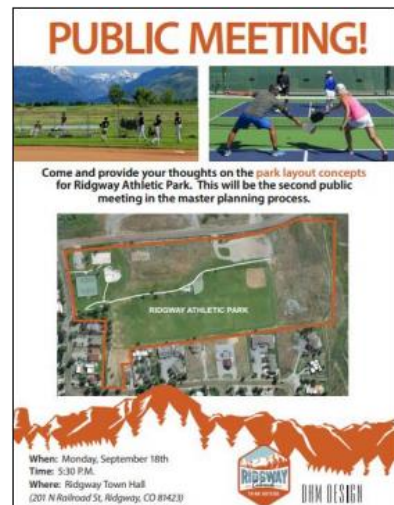
Friday, September 29th from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. A free guided field trip to view and learn about watershed conditions in south Ouray and along Camp Bird Road. [More information and registration.](#)

Water Quality Monitoring in the Upper Unc

Saturday, September 30th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A free guided field trip to view and learn about water quality monitoring and streamflow conditions around Ouray County. [More information and registration.](#)

Watershed Restoration in the Ironton Park Area

Saturday, October 7th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A free guided field trip to view and learn about watershed conditions along Highway 550 above Ouray. [More information and registration.](#)





Love Your Gorge

Saturday, October 14th. Sponsored by City of Ouray and Alpine Bank. [More information.](#)

The Next 10 Years of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed

Tuesday, October 17th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Ouray Community Center. The whole community is invited to this event to learn about UWP's history, goals and plans while giving input about future projects and activities. Funded by Telluride Foundation and CDPHE Non-Point Source Program. [More information.](#)

Cheatgrass Treatment Workshop

Tuesday, November 7th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Ouray County Event Center. A free event including dinner and helpful information for property owners with large landscapes. Sponsored by the Bird Conservancy. Hosted by Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership and Shavano Conservation District.

UWP 10th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, November 16th. Stay tuned for time, location and other information.

Please take the [community survey](#) about UWP and the watershed's future. Draft strategic plan survey will be available in October.

OURAY COUNTY WORKFORCE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT UPDATE

All Points Transit had a couple of productive meetings with CDOT over the last few weeks. The aim is now to get this new service up and running in January.

The Gunnison Valley TPR awarded the City of Ouray \$533,091 MMOF-ARPA funds with a 25% local match requirement of \$177,697 for the purchase of a transit vehicle and establishment and operation of a transit service in Ouray County. This service is to be operated by All Points Transit to whom CDOT will grant the MMOF funds directly instead of the City of Ouray. Because the execution of the grant is delayed, All Points Transit has had to purchase the vehicle already in order to be prepared to implement the new service under a feasible timeline. Because the vehicle purchase has been made prior to the grant contract, its purchase price can no longer be counted as part of the match requirement. A solution has been identified and is currently being worked through and voted on by the Gunnison Valley TPR members. By changing the awardee from the City of Ouray, who must provide a 25% match (with the help of the Town of Ridgway and Ouray County), to All Points Transit, who is not required to provide any match, the Gunnison Valley TPR can grant the \$533,091 MMOF-ARPA funds with 0% match and the vehicle purchase becomes moot.



RIDGWAY RIDE AND DRIVE EVENT

Ridgway is hosting an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ride and Drive event on Saturday, September 16th from 10:00a to 2:00p in the Hartwell Park parking lot. Attendees will have the opportunity to drive EVs, speak with EV owners, learn about regional efforts to support EV infrastructure, and more! All are welcome.

GROWING WATER SMART WORKSHOP

Last month, staff prepared an application to participate in the Growing Water Smart Workshop in October, and I'm happy to announce that Ridgway was selected to attend! The Growing Water Smart Workshop brings key community decisionmakers on water and land use planning together to collaborate on sustainable water use. The workshop utilizes a range of public engagement, planning, communication, and policy implementation tools to help community teams realize their water efficiency, watershed health, and water resilience goals.



Ridgway's roster for the workshop is as follows:

- Preston Neill
- John Clark
- TJ Dlubac
- Joanne Fagan
- Tanya Ishikawa

The workshop, which will take place October 23rd to October 25th in Grand Junction, offers each participating team the time to collaborate and focus on the water resource challenges that are influencing each community's growth and development. The program is comprised of the following elements:

- Team-Oriented Work Sessions
- Learning Best Practices
- Peer-to-Peer Networking

WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

As part of the Town's Meter Replacement Program, our Public Works crew spent the last few weeks installing new water meters and MXUs around town. MXUs are radio signal devices which permit off-site meter reading via radio signals. Over the last few weeks, 88 meters and MXUs have been replaced. Shout out to Randy and Steven for all their hard work!



CML DISTRICT MEETING

Mayor Clark and I attended the CML District Meeting hosted by the City of Delta on September 6th in Delta. District Meetings are a chance to discuss legislative priorities with CML staff, discuss issues affecting our municipality, and hear from colleagues in neighboring communities.

MOBILE PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS ARE GETTING READY TO HIT THE ROAD

These mobile clinics provide low- and no-cost services to Coloradans of all ages. These include routine vaccines required for school and childcare, as well as other recommended vaccines like flu, COVID-19, and mpox. The exact vaccines offered depend on the specific clinic.

The mobile public health program's mission is to bridge gaps in access to disease control and public health services, and rapidly respond to emergent issues statewide. The emphasis is on serving low-income and underserved areas of the state.

Most health insurance plans cover recommended vaccines for both children and adults at little or no cost. Even if you don't have health insurance, you can still get vaccinated at one of the mobile public health clinics. Under a Colorado law called Individual Access To Publicly Funded Vaccines, vaccine providers cannot require you to provide health insurance, ID, or payment in order to access publicly funded vaccines.

Ouray County Public Health will host a mobile public health clinic on October 11th at the Ouray County 4H Events Center. Visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/mobilepublichealth> for more information.

CML OPPOSES PROPOSITION HH

The Colorado Municipal League Executive Board annually reviews referred and initiated measures of municipal interest. From time to time, the Board will vote to officially support or oppose measures that positively or negatively affect municipalities, respectively.

On Sept. 8, the Board approved a position on one of the measures on this fall's ballot as described below:

CML opposes Proposition HH: Reduce Property Taxes and Retain State Revenue

CML opposes Proposition HH because of the unnecessary constraints on municipal authority to provide appropriate localized property tax relief, and the restriction of municipal tax revenue.

Proposition HH was referred to the ballot by the Colorado General Assembly. It has three main components:



1. Provides some property tax relief by lowering assessment rates for both residential and certain types of nonresidential properties, providing a reduction in value for certain residential properties, and by increasing the senior homestead exemption and making that exemption portable.
2. Imposes a limit on growth in property tax revenue for local governments (except for school districts and home rule jurisdictions), which would be capped at the rate of inflation. Local governments can exceed the revenue limit if the governing body, on an annual basis, notifies the public, holds a meeting for public comment, and adopts an ordinance or resolution.
3. Seeks a voter-approved revenue change that would allow the state to retain and spend part of the state surplus (TABOR cap) up to the “Proposition HH cap.” This money will then be used to provide a partial and contingent backfill for the property tax revenues that local governments will lose out on because of the various reductions that will go into effect and to provide rental assistance; the largest portion of the state-retained revenue will go to fund K-12 education.

Please review [CML’s detailed summary and analysis of Proposition HH](#), particularly the aspects that restrict local governments from properly addressing local government revenues.

GMUG LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests published the revised Forest Plan and final environmental impact statement (FEIS) on Wednesday August 30th, 2023. The 60-day pre-decisional administrative review period (also known as the objection period) for the revised Forest Plan, FEIS, draft Record of Decision, and the Regional Forester’s species of conservation concern list for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests began on August 30, 2023, with the publication of the legal notice in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. If you wish to file an objection, you must do so in writing by October 30, 2023. Objections are distinct from public comments and must adhere to specific instructions. For more information, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/gmug/landmanagement/planning>.

UPDATE RE ENERGY CODE UPGRADES

Town staff is working with Kim Wheels at EcoAction Partners to put together a timeline/public meeting schedule related to the adoption of the **2021 International Energy Conservation Code** and the **Colorado Model Electric Ready and Solar Ready Code**. Stay tuned!



HERITAGE PARK FENCE

The new split-rail fence at Heritage Park has been installed!

RFP FOR CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FOR NEW RIDGWAY VISITOR CENTER

Last month, the Colorado Main Street Program (COMS) sought proposals to provide design services and construction drawings for a new Visitor Center in Ridgway. Proposals were due by August 25th, but, unfortunately, COMS did not receive any proposals by the deadline. In a meeting between COMS staff and Town staff held last week, feedback was shared from three architectural firms that had elected not to bid. The group discussed future options to bring the project to fruition, and also talked about several grant opportunities that can help advance the project.



THE DECKER COMMUNITY ROOM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Decker Community Room on the ground floor of Ridgway Space to Create is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Stop by to check out the latest art installation that features the work of Henrick Haaland and Ed Werner. The room is available to rent for community meetings, classes, and events. For more details go to www.ridgwayfuse.org/decker.

TERA WICK SELECTED FOR DOERS & DIFFERENCE MAKERS FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Tera Wick, our Community Initiatives Facilitator, who was selected for the 2023 Boettcher Foundation's Doers and Difference Makers Fellowship! The Fellowship seeks to identify, celebrate, elevate, and connect community champions from across Colorado. The program elevates these individuals' voices and amplifies their impact through structured opportunities to develop as individual leaders and members of Colorado's ecosystem, including a financial investment, individualized coaching, and an emphasis on building connections.

The 2022 Fellows, chosen from a competitive process, come from a variety of backgrounds, sectors, and geographic regions. They are local leaders engaged in economic development, youth development, civic engagement, and more. Though unique in their professional backgrounds and lived experiences, each Fellow is determined to serve Colorado and their community with courageous leadership.

PRESTON NEILL RECEIVES CREDENTIALLED MANAGER (CANDIDATE) DESIGNATION

Last month, I was formally designated as a Credentialed Manager Candidate by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). ICMA's Voluntary Credentialing Program recognizes professional local government managers who through their education and



experience, their adherence to high standards of integrity, and their commitment to lifelong learning and professional development are deserving of the credential.

Credentialed Managers gain this recognition from ICMA through a peer review credentialing process that emphasizes not only their participation in professional development activities but, more importantly, what they learned from these activities. What distinguishes Credentialed Managers and Candidates is their commitment to plan for continuous personal improvement, to reflect upon their development activities, and to document their learning for peer review.

SNEFFELS ENERGY BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Sneffels Energy Board

Meeting Highlights: Wednesday Aug 30, 2023 @ 4:00-6:00 p.m.

EAP's 2022 Annual Report:

This updated report has been finalized! Download here: [EAP Annual Report](#). This report was produced as a streamlined document to inform and update the public about EAP's programs and activities, including the SEB, CAP and GHG Inventory. Please use it and spread the word!

Plastic Film Program support needed:

This program needs additional ongoing support in order to restart and succeed. The SEB requested that Emma summarize information and the request to local governments for ongoing program support. EAP is requesting that representatives review the proposal & budget scenarios provided, and follow up with Emma to let her know if your jurisdiction would support ongoing operations for this program, as well as if you have further questions or input.

CAP Implementation – Opportunity to partner with NREL:

The Telluride Foundation has identified a potential opportunity for us to partner with NREL to support us with CAP implementation. NREL has experience in supporting small communities with energy transition and has expertise in modeling and cost analysis that could be beneficial, while allowing access to additional funding resources. This opportunity will be explored further during a meeting on September 27 or 28.

CAP Land Use:

The implementation actions for Land Use in our CAP are high level, and more resources are becoming available to support us in identifying specific actions appropriate to implement in our region. EAP shared a presentation from a MT2030 session on **Nature Based Solutions** from Brett KenCairn, Senior Climate Policy Advisor with the City of Boulder. If anyone missed it, would like to relisten, or is interested in the informative discussion afterward that covered how the topic relates to housing challenges, fire prevention, watershed management and more: here is a link to his [presentation](#) which begins at 9:45 into the recording. More discussion about Land Use actions will occur during future meetings, so please listen if you missed it!

Board member highlights:

SEB members provided highlights and expressed challenges specific to their jurisdictions! There are a lot of exciting actions underway in our region. This portion of the SEB meetings is intended to help board members learn from each other, by sharing successes and expressing challenges, so that we can all support each other. Refer to SEB notes for specifics on what is happening in our region.

Silverton GOLD (Goal Of Less Dependence) Team Wins \$100,000 Department of Energy Prize for Grid Modernization and Climate and Resiliency Plans:



San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), the Town of Silverton, San Juan County, and EcoAction Partners formed the Silverton Team GOLD (Goal Of Less Dependence), to apply for a challenge through the Department of Energy, Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) “Energizing Rural Communities” Competition which incentivizes the development of innovative clean energy projects in rural or remote areas. We recently received notice that we were awarded the prize, so Silverton and San Juan County are now officially part of the SEB!

The GOLD project includes 1) Community Resilience Planning, 2) Regional Climate Action, 3) Beneficial Electrification and 4) Town Electrical Resilience in the form of potential facility-scale and community-scale “microgrid” solutions. Over the next year, the team will work through the planning stages of these 4 “muggets”, aiming to make them replicable for implementation throughout our region and other similar communities. In receiving this award, the Silverton GOLD team is now eligible for a second phase award focused on implementation.

Important Dates:

- EV Ride & Drive – Ridgway / Ouray County – Saturday, September 16
- SEB / NREL meeting – Thursday, September 28 - TBD
- Regional EV Readiness Plan Task Force meeting – Wednesday, September 27, 4-5PM
- Renewable Energy / Beneficial Electrification League (REBEL) Roundtable: October TBD, 4-5:30 PM – In person at SMPA Ridgway office & zoom
- MT2030: Oct 18-19, Vail – 2023 Solutions Summit
- CAST meeting: Oct 20

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – September 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Athletic Park Master Planning Public Meeting** – September 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – September 19, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – September 26, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – October 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom



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- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – October 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

Where do bad rainbows go?

Prism

It's a light sentence and gives them time to reflect.