



## GCWC Steering Meeting Thursday 25 January 2024

Lunch @ 11:30 | Meeting @ Noon | Grand Fire (60500 Hwy 40, Granby)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85166177417?pwd=K0gxUXVnREtBWEJWbnZBRTZLc1grUT09>

Meeting ID: 851 6617 7417 Passcode: 645598

One tap mobile: +17207072699,,85166177417#,,\*645598# US (Denver)

### MINUTES

Call to Order: 12:02pm

Welcome and Introductions:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Last Steering Committee Meeting Minutes: [GCWC Steering Meeting Minutes October 25, 2023.docx](#)

1st by Brian Faith, 2nd by Steve Meyer, approved unanimously.

**Jessica Rahn, GCWC Executive Director Speaker, Drive By Home Assessments:**

- Overview of the parcel level risk assessments to showcase GCWC's drive-by mitigation assessments for homeowners in Grand County and show how to access your own.
- See presentation here: [Parcel Level Risk Assessment Presentation\\_Steering Committee 2024.01.25.pdf](#)
- Audience question on whether insurance companies would use this information for their assessments. Discussion ensued that insurance likes to use their own proprietary assessments.

**Board and Committee Updates**

- Finance and Advocacy Committee (Rahn)
  - Current Financials --**US Bank \$46,273.27**
  - Funding update
    - Grants
      - CDS Grant for \$800,000 through 2027. First request made for reimbursement for cost share programs and chipping programs for \$89,000.
      - BLM Grant for \$100,000. Working on access to request funding.
      - COSWAP Grant Update for \$409,000. Two contractors have been awarded from a competitive bid process to complete mitigation work during summer of 2024 for 140 acres in Granby Ranch and Winter Park Highlands areas.
      - Thank you for contributions to GCWC
        - Town of Winter Park - \$5,000 for staffing
        - Town of Grand Lake - \$1,000 for administrative expenses
    - Donations
      - CO Gives for Q4 2023: \$3,524.17.
      - Other donations total about \$3,000 from 10/1/23 through today.
    - Approval of OLRT Fund
      - GCWC is eligible to apply during the 2nd round of 2024 funding this fall.
    - Money Market Account
      - We opened an account that allows us to gain interest on money that we have not yet granted.
  - 2023 Successes Summary
- Mitigation Committee (Rahn)
  - Updates to Cost Share Programs for 2024
    - GCWC Board is reviewing programs to ensure we have proper controls in place to verify work, encourage best practices in mitigation work, and to split out smaller projects from larger projects.



- Smaller projects allow us to assist homeowners with life safety and widespread community engagement, while large projects can be opportunities to encourage further collaboration with more partners and people, while focusing on our CWPP to pursue additional mitigation.
- Chipping Program Dates for 2024
  - Kremmling, June 22nd
  - East Grand Fire Station, July 13th
  - Granby Fire Station, July 27th
  - Bud Wilson Fire Station (North Station), August 10th
  - Grand Lake, (TBD), August 24th (Pending Funding)
- Education Committee (Miller, Hagerty or Sangster)
  - August 9th is Smokey the Bear's 80th Birthday. The Committee is working on a collaboration with USFS for a Library Series for kids.
  - They are working on bringing back "Fully Involved" educational articles in the newspaper, like how to prepare your home for wildfire season.
  - They are working on a training series for this summer that includes topics similar to the Fully Involved articles.
- Board Elections (White)
  - 3 Open Positions: Ken Wright, Nate Towne (not seeking re-election,) Laurie Pope (resigned)
  - Nominees: Ken Wright, Amy Sidener, and Mary Sangster. The three open positions were filled by the three nominees.

#### **New Business**

- 2024 Tax Mailer (Rahn)
- Mitigation Specialist - Program Manager Recruiting Update (Rahn)
  - We have an offer out to a candidate.
- COCO-AIM Course February 2/17-2/18 at Grand Fire (Faith)
  - Registration information on bewildfireready.org.
- **2024 Meeting Dates:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of each quarter
  - Lunch at 11:30, Meeting at noon, at Grand Fire

#### **Round Table / Updates / Adjourn - 1:30 pm**

- Audience question about the timing of the Steering Committee Meeting. Discussion ensued that in the past different times and days were tried, and that this date and time drew the largest audience.
- Eric Freels from USFS shared that the Forest Service had open hours to the public at their Granby Office the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month from 1:30-4:30 PM.
- Rahn reminded our partners that we had the Mitigation Priorities Planning meeting coming up in February.
- HOA President Kris discussed concerns about only having 1 egress in her neighborhood which is behind the Sunset Ridge neighborhood. Ryan Mowrey from East Grand Fire offered to assist with her concerns.



## GCWC Steering Meeting Thursday 25 April 2024

Lunch @ 11:30 | Meeting @ Noon | Grand Fire (60500 Hwy 40, Granby)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85166177417?pwd=K0gxUXVnREtBWEJWVnZBRTZLc1grUT09>

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### MINUTES

Call to Order: 12:00pm

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Last Steering Committee Meeting Minutes: [January 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)

1st by Brad White; 2nd by Manny Yanisch; approved unanimously.

**Speaker: Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan, Firewise USA® Program Manager from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), spoke about Firewise USA® Communities and May 4th Wildfire Community Preparedness Day.**

#### Board and Committee Updates

- Finance and Advocacy Committee (Rahn)
  - Current Financials- **US Bank \$23,438.14; Money Market Account: \$50,357.83 - About \$74,000 total.**  
Waiting on reimbursement for our COSWAP Funds for about \$37,000.
  - Funding update
- Grants
  - CDS Grant for \$800,000 total: We have allocated over \$300,000 out of \$600,000 of the large projects, cost share, and chipping program money for 2024, and \$50,000 of the staffing funding.
  - BLM Grant for \$100,000: We have allocated all of this money towards large projects, cost share, and chipping programs for 2024. We have requested \$260,000 of additional funding, \$110,000 to our drive by rapid assessment program, and \$150,000 towards large projects, cost share, and chipping for 2025-2026.
  - COSWAP Grant for \$409,000. Two contractors have been awarded from a competitive bid process to complete mitigation work this summer for about 160 acres in the Granby Ranch and Winter Park Highlands areas.
  - We are in the final round for a grant from a non-profit group called Coalitions and Collaboratives to fund a Roads Safety Project for roads identified in the CWPP and coordinated by the Joint Wildland Team that have the potential for entrapment and long flame length during a wildfire.
    - The project covers chipping fuels 20 feet on either side of these roads for about 170 acres of work. Once we find out if we received the grant, we will start reaching out to homeowners along the identified county roads with more information. An important part of this project is that these homeowners will have the opportunity to pull their slash into the right of way and get it chipped, and they will also have their drive by rapid assessments completed at the same time.
  - We received a grant for \$8,660 from the CO State Forest Service that supports Community Outreach and Education in Grand County. The grant requires a small cash match (about \$1,500) from the Wildfire Council and we will also be contributing lots of in-kind or volunteer time match.
    - We will be doing radio ads with KFFR, supporting short term rental educational literature for evacuation information and wildfire prevention working with our fire districts, Grand County OEM, and USFS, a children's library series partnering with USFS and Smokey the Bear, advertising for a training series this summer that will be held here at Grand Fire, educational articles that we will be providing to Sky Hi on our cost share programs, home hardening, cisterns, and home insurance, and we also received money to update our website for accessibility and ease of navigation.



- Address Signs
  - Final Tally for signs for 2023 was 189 signs. So far, 114 Signs Ordered Year to Date, net profit of \$1,867 from the sales that we can use as unrestricted funding to support other needs of the organization.
- OLRT Fund
  - We can begin applying for these funds as of October 15th, 2024 for forward looking projects. We can apply for large fuels reduction projects, cost share programs, our chipping programs, and staffing/ administrative costs from this fund.
- Mitigation Committee (Rahn)
  - 2024 Cost Share Programs
    - Two programs: home hazard ignition zone for individual homeowners focused on the first 100 feet around your home and structures, and 20 feet on each side of your egress (driveway,) and the strategic fuels reduction cost share program, which is meant for larger parcels, community, and landscape level projects. Both applications are now online under the Cost Share tab on the website.
  - Chipping Program Dates for 2024
    - Kremmling, June 22nd
    - East Grand Fire Station, July 13th
    - Granby Fire Station, July 27th
    - Bud Wilson Fire Station (North Station), August 10th
    - Grand Lake at Grand Adventures, August 24th
- Education Committee (Miller, Hagerty or Sangster)
  - Living with Fire
    - Lecture Series
      - We are firming up other dates, but we have confirmed our first which will be: Preparing Your Home for Wildfire Season: Grand Fire, Friday, May 31st from 2-4 PM.
      - Subscription group email forthcoming as well as ads in the newspaper - there will be registration links so please register beforehand for each training.
    - Educational Articles will be placed in the Sky Hi News over the summer.

## New Business

- Mitigation Specialist - Program Manager Recruiting Update (Rahn)
  - Our new Mitigation Specialist will be starting next week. Sam Bailey is moving here from Fort Collins and has a Bachelors of Science in Forestry. Sam has over 3 years of experience as an on-call wildland firefighter and search and rescue team member. He is also a certified arborist. We are so excited to have Sam on board!
- CSFS Grant for Website Update
  - We will be working with our current website administrator to update our website. The website is a great tool that we use to inform the public, and it hasn't had an update in about 10 years. While our website presents much of our information well, we are working to simplify it and increase accessibility.
- Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission: [Commission Website](#)
- Letter to the County Commissioners: [Colorado County Commissioners: Please Engage with Peer-Reviewed Science on "Wildfire Fuel Reduction" Logging Projects.](#) (Linke) (Copies up front)
  
- **2024 Meeting Dates:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of each quarter
  - Lunch at 11:30, Meeting at noon, at Grand Fire

**Round Table / Updates / Adjourn - 2:00 pm**



## GCWC Steering Meeting Thursday 25 July 2024

Lunch @ 11:30 | Meeting @ Noon | Grand Fire (60500 Hwy 40, Granby)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85166177417?pwd=K0gxUXVnREtBWEJWbnZBRTZLc1grUT09>

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Call to Order: 12:04 PM

### Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Last Steering Committee Meeting Minutes: [April 25, 2024 Steering Committee Minutes](#)

- 1st by Steve Meyer; 2nd by Kris Schnieder; approved unanimously.

**Speaker: Corrina Marshall, Ember Alliance and the Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative. Corrina discussed the Fireshed and its history, its partnership with GCWC, and the Fireshed's new Geospatial Database. NoCoFireshed.org**

### Board and Committee Updates

- Finance and Advocacy Committee (Rahn)
  - Current Financials **US Bank: \$41,503 ; Money Market Account: \$50,924.37 = TOTAL: \$92,427.37**
  - Funding update
    - Grants - Projects - Cost Share
      - CDS - Allocated \$300k of the \$800k, and of that \$300k, we have reimbursed about \$50k for Fuels Strategic Cost Share and \$25k for Chipping to date.
      - BLM - \$10k reimbursed for Cost Share HIZ and \$10k allocated; another \$10k projects in progress and \$20k allocated for 2024 Chipping Days.
      - COSWAP Grant - \$409,000: Hand cut and pile contractor has completed their acreage, the mastication contractor is starting within the next 3 weeks. Total acreage is about 160 acres.
      - Grand County Roads Safety Project - reducing fuels along CWPP identified roads. We received a large grant from COCO-AIM to pay for 50% of the \$112,500 cost of the project; our additional grant partners include GC OEM, NFF, Grand Foundation, the Joint Wildland Team, and the BLM. Phase 1 has been completed and the Joint Wildland Team will be identifying the next batch of roads in Grand Fire and Grand Lake Fire districts. East Grand may also identify a few areas to be added. We will be reaching out to homeowners with education before the next phase. Around 160 acres of work to be completed.
      - CO State Forest Service Grant - \$8,660 with about \$1,500 in GCWC and other match plus in kind hours from our volunteers and staff.
        - We have used the money to advertise both in print and digitally in Sky Hi for our Community Chipping Days, Summer Training Series, Living with Fire Educational Articles, a Radio advertisement on KFFR for 3 months, materials for our Children's Library Series, and updating our website with additional accessibility and language translation options as well as a general revamp.
    - Address Signs
      - We made 189 reflective address signs in 2023 through our program.
      - So far, 184 Signs Ordered Year to Date, with a net profit of \$2,000 from the sales that we can use as unrestricted funding to support other needs of the organization. We continue to push the address signs at our Community Chipping Days and other events.
    - OLRT Fund
      - We can begin applying for these funds as of October 15th, 2024 for forward looking projects. We can apply for large fuels reduction projects, cost share programs, our chipping programs, and staffing/ administrative costs from this fund. We will be working on building these projects over the next month.



- Post Fire Projects
  - Grand Foundation has some funding remaining for wildfire survivors in post fire areas. We are working with them and GC OEM to put out a survey to wildfire survivors to start to build post fire clean up projects in post fire areas to use the remainder of this funding. We will be working with Grand Lake Fire and Grand Fire to identify appropriate project areas. We hope to complete these projects in 2025.
  - We continue to pursue additional funding for projects and staffing/ capacity but we currently have sufficient funding for our programs and staff.
- Mitigation Committee (Rahn)
  - Chipping Program Dates remaining for 2024 - Volunteer Sign up sheets on the table by the front door. We could use more volunteers for the remaining days if anyone is available!
    - All 10-3 PM.
    - Granby Fire Station, July 27th
    - Bud Wilson Fire Station (North Station), August 10th
    - Grand Lake at Grand Adventures, August 24th
- Education Committee (Sangster, Hagerty or Miller)
  - Living with Fire
    - Training Series
      - Becoming Firewise: Grand Fire, Friday, July 26th, 5-7 PM - TOMORROW! Please join us!!
      - We had over 20 people attend the Insurance in a WUI.
      - Our first training, Preparing Your Home for Wildfire Season, had about 10 people in attendance.
      - Pat: Senior Lunch and Learn: Mitigation and Insurance at Grand Lake Library: Almost 40 people attended this.
      - Becoming Firewise: Grand Fire, Friday, July 26th, 5-7 PM.
    - Library Series
      - 5 locations over 2 days (June 26th and June 27th.) About 85 kids plus their parents/ caretakers attended these!
    - Educational Articles
    - Networking Social and other events
      - Firewise social attendance: 16-20 Firewise communities or those who are pursuing Firewise.

### **New Business**

- Mitigation Specialist - Program Manager (Rahn)
  - Sam Bailey introduced himself and discussed what he has been working on this summer, including around 70 assessments already. Assessment requests on our website go to Sam.
- **2024 Meeting Dates:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of each quarter
  - Lunch at 11:30, Meeting at noon, at Grand Fire

**Round Table / Updates / Adjourn -1:55 PM**



## GCWC Steering Meeting Thursday 24 October 2024

**Lunch @ 11:30 | Meeting @ Noon | Grand Fire (60500 Hwy 40, Granby)**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85166177417?pwd=K0gxUXVnREtBWEJWnZBRTZLc1grUT09>

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Call to Order 12:05 PM

### Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Last Steering Committee Meeting Minutes: [July 25, 2024 Steering Committee Minutes](#)

- 1st by Ryan McNertney; 2nd by Tyler Campbell; approved unanimously.

**Speaker: Josh Hanks, Executive Director of the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council, and Haley Cunningham, Events Coordinator for the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council, discussed the history of their council, 2024 activities and programs including their mobile chipping program, and their considerations and initiatives planned for 2025.**

### Board and Committee Updates

- Finance and Advocacy Committee
  - Current Financials (McNertney)
    - As of 10/17/24, US Bank Checking: \$131,082.18, Money Market: \$46,296.72, Total: **\$142,106.56**





## Funding update (McNertney)

- Grants
  - BLM
    - Original Grant for \$100,000 has been reimbursed on fuels mitigation including our cost share programs and 2024 chipping days.
    - The additional funds from the amendment to the grant for \$160,494 has \$16,500 reimbursed on HIZ and Strategic Fuels Cost Share programs. The remaining \$144,000 has \$57,000 allocated to the Strategic Fuels Cost Share program, \$5,000 estimated for remaining HIZ Cost Share for 2024, leaving about \$82,000 for future cost share, chipping, and special projects programs.
  - CDS
    - Original Grant for Existing Programs (Cost Share, Chipping) and Special Projects is \$600,000 collectively, \$200,000 has been reimbursed, with \$190,000 allocated to the Strategic Fuels Cost Share program, \$5,000 estimated for remaining HIZ Cost Share for 2024, leaving \$210,000 for future cost share, chipping, and special projects programs.
- Cost Share
  - HIZ
    - 46 Applications with 16 reimbursements totaling about \$28,000 to date. If all applicants submitted for reimbursement, an estimated additional \$19,000 would be reimbursed under this program.
  - Strategic Fuels (Larger Projects)
    - 32 Applications with 9 reimbursements totaling about \$115,000 to date with an additional 15 applications approved by the board totaling \$245,000.
- Address Signs
  - We made 189 reflective address signs in 2023 through our program.
  - To date for 2024 we have 256 orders, with a net profit of about \$4,000 that we can use as unrestricted funding to support other needs of the organization.
- Open Lands Rivers Trails Fund
  - Submitted 3 grant applications:
    - Requested and received \$63,000 of Funding for Roads Safety Project Phase 3 including some administration cost. Projected start date is spring 2025.
    - Requested and received \$26,000 for NEPA. Projected start date with SWCA as our contractor is this winter.
      - Conduct abbreviated “NEPA” assessments on public lands in preparation for mitigation work through an outside contractor. NEPA stands for the National Environmental Policy Act. The Act requires that federal agencies assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions and the process results in a NEPA report to support planned actions. 70% of Grand County land is public land, owned by federal agencies. Without NEPA first on these lands, wildfire mitigation projects cannot occur.
    - We received \$100,000 for staffing salaries for 2025 and 2026.
  - A big thank you to all who voted to support the extension of the Open Lands Rivers Trails Act, which will be an important source of continued local funding for GCWC for both projects and operational capacity.
- Post Fire Projects
  - Grand Foundation has some funding remaining for wildfire survivors in post fire areas. We continue to work with the Grand Foundation and GC OEM to put out a survey to wildfire survivors to build post fire clean up projects in post fire areas to use the remainder of this funding. We are working with Grand Lake Fire and Grand Fire to identify appropriate project areas. We hope to complete these projects in 2025. We discussed this at the last steering committee meeting in July and continue to work on it.
- Projects (McNertney, Campbell)





- COSWAP
  - This project, funded by the CO state DNR through the COSWAP grant program, is located in the Winter Park Highlands and Granby Ranch areas. This work will reduce risk from fire coming up the canyon towards these neighborhoods and beyond.
  - One contractor completed 116.5 acres of hand cut and pile work this summer, and another two contractors completed 64.2 acres of mastication work, for a total of 180.7 acres. Please note that they will be burning piles in November and/or December if possible.
  - If you all recall, in 2023 this grant also paid for fuels reduction work on 20 acres in The Shores neighborhood with assistance from Team Rubicon, and 5.8 acres in the Homestead Hills neighborhood.
  - Funding: \$409,000 total, mitigating over 200 acres, with all acreage mitigated.
- Roads Safety
  - This project reduces fuels along CWPP identified roads. We received a large grant from COCO-AIM to pay for 50% of the \$112,500 cost of the project; our additional grant partners include GC OEM, NFF, Grand Foundation, the Joint Wildland Team, and the BLM. Most of the 160 acres and 23 miles of road planned has been mitigated and chipped.
  - Thank you to the Education Committee for getting out and educating our homeowners along the route to allow them to pull slash into the right of way and get that chipped!
  - As mentioned in the OLRT requests above, we received \$63,000 of funding for our next phase of the Roads Safety project which will occur in 2025.
- Mitigation Committee (McNertney)
  - Chipping Program Recap
    - 2024: \$43,890 CDS Funds used, \$40,862 BLM Funds used, Total Cost \$84,752, which is about double from 2023.
    - With 281 participants mitigating 545 acres, the community doubled its participation and mitigated about 40% more acres than 2023. Great job everyone!
    - A special thank you to all of our volunteers who made our chipping days a success. It took 215 volunteer hours and over 2,000 homeowner hours mitigating to get this done!
- Education Committee (Sangster, Hagerty, Miller)
  - 2024 Events Recap- Lecture series, newspaper articles, Kid's and Senior's Library Series, 582 contacts made.
  - 2025 Planned Events- newspaper articles, lecture series, meetings with Board or Realtor's and Builder's Association, HOA meetings, manned booth at events, Ace Hardware Hotdogger event if possible.

## New Business

- **GCWC Wildland Urban Interface Best Practices (Brinkmann, White, McNertney)**  
<https://bewildfireready.org/resources/wui-best-practices>
- **Wildland Conference Recap (Bailey, White, Campbell)**
- **Wildfire Matters Review Committee Recap (White, Campbell)**
- **Winter Park Ranch Mobile Chipping Day and Request for Earmarked Donations (Benson, White, McNertney)**  
More discussion will need to take place with the Board before committing to this.
- **Grand County Wildfire Revisioning Action Plan (GC WRAP) (Campbell)**
- **Mitigation Planning Priorities Team (McNertney, Campbell)**
- **2025 Meeting Dates:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of each quarter
  - Lunch at 11:30, Meeting at noon, at Grand Fire

Round Table / Updates / Adjourn - 2:17 PM