Gunnison Conservation District
210 W Spencer Ave STE A
Gunnison, CO 81230

AGENDA – Regular Meeting 2:00 – 4:00
Date: November 17, 2026, 2 PM
Meeting to be held at ***UGRWCD, 210 West Spencer Ave., Ste. A, Gunnison, CO 81230***

Call to Order	**Dan Zadra**
Regular Meeting	2:00 – 4:00

Partner Updates

NRCS	Jamison Jewkes / Dan Olson
Colorado State Forest Service	Mike Tarantino
CSU Extension	Hannah Cranor-Kersting
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	Marcella Tarantino
UGRWCD	Beverly Richards
Trout Unlimited	Jesse Kruthaupt
Crested Butte Land Trust	Jon Mugglestone

Approval of Minutes	**Board**
October 27, 2026 Regular Meeting	

Treasurer's Report	**Jon Mugglestone, Dan Zadra**

Financial Statements	**Provided by Tonya Carr**

October – November 2026
Balance Sheet as of November 10, 2026
Profit and Loss, January 1 – November 10, 2026
Budget vs. Actuals, FY26 (through November 10, 2026)
Note: Grant Income includes $7,317.61 invoiced to NFWF that remains outstanding; the invoice will be removed when paid or by December 31, 2026

Note: The sales tax journal entry reported at the October meeting is now reflected; City of Gunnison Payable is $0.00

Old Business

DCT Project Updates	**Jules Iovino**

NRCS onboarding – LincPass received; has started the USDA training; now has access to

NRCS Cultural Resources Training – completed and passed the first part; now eligible for the field course

NRCS vehicles – began the training required to drive NRCS vehicles

Western Colorado University and Coldharbour biochar workshop, November 4 – 5 – Jules and Tonya attended; classroom day on biochar benefits, kiln designs, application methods, and soil amendment studies, including findings from WCU graduate students; hands-on day making biochar at Coldharbour Ranch in a barrel, a "Ring of Fire" kiln, and a "Big Box" kiln

NFWF Western Big Game grant – working with Brandon Miller of USFWS on private landowner agreements for the properties to be restored (first steps: meeting with each landowner and drafting agreements with the project guidelines and plans); the agreements will help USFWS with NEPA compliance and allow the District to return and confirm compliance

Almont Triangle weed spraying project (NFWF funded) – continuing to work with USFS on compliance

CDA noxious weed grant – third quarter report submitted in October; final report under way and due by the end of the year

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Strategic Committee – attended the October 21 meeting and submitted the minutes; the group is editing a partnership roadmap prepared by County Commissioner Liz Smith that outlines the key responsibilities and goals of each participating organization

DM Update **Tonya Carr**

DCT position funding for 2027 – remaining need of approximately $12,600 after RESTORE Colorado; continuing search for capacity grants; follow-up with UGRWCD on whether an agreement is needed to invoice RESTORE Colorado funds

Measuring flumes – outreach on the State's Diversion Measurement Installation Program (applications due November 20) by Facebook post and member email; survey on interest in a local District flume program; Gunnison Basin Roundtable application in draft

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) B2E grant, Upper Gunnison River Basin Restoration Project – project work begins in 2027; Ocate site – next steps to be determined

UGRWCD 2026/2027 grant request – revised request for $10,000 submitted

FY2027 Targeted Conservation Project (TCP) proposal, Gunnison Basin Working Lands and Watersheds – not selected; the next proposal will be developed from the 2027 Annual Meeting / Local Work Group survey

NFWF CPP reimbursements – requests submitted monthly; $7,317.61 outstanding

Biophilia grant (wet meadow restoration) – statement of work update with Jules Iovino's contact information

2027 property and liability insurance renewal – submitted

New Business

DCT Update **Jules Iovino**

Coldharbour Ranch Compatible Use Authorization (CUA) renewal – assisting Dan Olson, in collaboration with Julie Nania, Executive Director of the Coldharbour Institute

Low-tech process-based restoration (LTPBR) project with the NRCS Montrose Field Office – joining Marcella Tarantino in the planning phase; field visits begin in December

2027 Sage Grouse Summit and Festival, April 1 – 3, 2027 – helping plan and carry out the event

NRCS Cultural Resources field training – Longmont, CO, May 17 – 18, 2027

DM Update — Tonya Carr

2027 Youth Wildfire Resilience Summit / 2027 Annual Gunnison Wildfire Workshop, April 23 – 24, 2027 – first planning meeting Thursday, November 19, 9:00 a.m., Conservation District conference room

Post-fire debris flow lunch workshop hosted by the Gunnison County Emergency Operations Center – Tonya attended on Monday, November 16th

2027 Budget – continued Board review; adoption at the December 15 meeting (at least four supervisors must be present)

2027–2029 Strategic / Long-Range Plan – Board comments on the draft; due December 31, 2026

2027 Annual Meeting – confirmed date Thursday, March 25, 2027 at Western South Ballroom; recognition of John Rozman's years of service

Gunnison County Charges for Service grant – County funding report due in January

Documents to sign: October 27, 2026 minutes and financial statements (signature pages in this packet)

Adjourn at 3:45, Dan Zadra

Upcoming Events

2027 Annual Meeting	March 25, 2027
2027 Wildfire Resilience Summit/ Gunnison Basin Sage-Grouse Summit	April 1–3, 2027
Mitigation Workshop	April 23 – 24, 2027

Next Meetings

GCD Board Meeting:
December 15, 2026, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – 2027 budget adoption; 4 board members must be present
January 19, 2027, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Gunnison Conservation District
210 W Spencer Ave STE A, Gunnison, CO 81230

GUNNISON CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 27, 2026

Board President Dan Zadra called the regular meeting of the Gunnison Conservation District Board of Supervisors to order on October 27, 2026, at approximately 2:10 p.m. in the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Conference Room, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite A, Gunnison, Colorado.

Board Members Present:
Dan Zadra, President
Tommy Rozman, Vice President
Jon Mugglestone, Treasurer
Jesse Kruthaupt
Mark Rozman

Board Members Absent:
Jan Coury
John Rozman

Employees Present:
Tonya Carr, District Manager
Jules Iovino, District Conservation Technician/Conservation Specialist

Employees Absent:

Others Present:
Dan Olson, NRCS (attending online)

Partner and Agency Updates

Dan Olson from NRCS, attending online and covering for Jamison Jewkes, who was out for the week, reported an uptick in interest in program participation this year. He has been completing inventories and planning projects, with several project types planned across different land uses. The office is working to complete certifications and payments before the snow arrives. On staffing, Dan reported that Area Conservationist Chad Cherefko will retire at the end of the week; plans for filling the position, including any temporary arrangements, are not yet known.

The Colorado State Forest Service, CSU Extension, the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and UGRWCD provided no updates.

Jesse Kruthaupt from Trout Unlimited reported that Trout Unlimited has several projects underway and is working to complete construction and, in some cases, start it, on projects on Cochetopa Creek and Tomichi Creek. Mud, rain, and high flows have delayed mobilization and in-channel work so that some work will carry into the cold season. He has also been working through plans for the BOR B2E grant and on-the-ground work for 2027.

Jesse reported that he proposed a local program to help valley landowners replace measuring flumes, including Parshall flumes. Tommy Rozman explained the State's Diversion Measurement Installation Program, which was created in connection with the measurement rules and has approximately $7 million available statewide. Landowners apply through a short online form, with photos of the existing structure, by November 20, 2026; the State's contractor then installs the flume. Applications will be weighted on criteria that may include ditch size and whether the measurement is needed for water administration. Flumes that are rusted out, damaged, or have never worked are good candidates, while those that only need cleaning or routine maintenance may not qualify. Information and the application form are on the Colorado Division of Water Resources website, and Tommy will provide the link. Jesse explained that a local program could build on the State program by serving landowners who miss the deadline or do not qualify, with a longer time frame and an option for remote sensors, with the first year of data service possibly covered by the grant. It could also provide funding for District staff time to coordinate the program. He noted that Gunnison Basin Roundtable applications are accepted year-round; an application submitted in November could be under contract by about mid-March. Supervisors agreed that helping landowners with measurement fits the District's mission and long-range plan, and that the more landowners who apply to the State program, the better the demand will be demonstrated for future programs. No decision was required at this meeting; the Board returned to the topic later.

Jon Mugglestone from the Crested Butte Land Trust reported that the Land Trust has wrapped up its summer projects and is in transition to winter: recreational infrastructure is being switched over for Nordic skiing, parking areas are being adjusted for winter use, and cattle have come out of the Slate River Valley. Several conservation projects are in discussion; none are imminent, but there is considerable interest in conservation in the valley.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the September 15, 2026, regular meeting. Jon Mugglestone moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Tommy Rozman seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report / Financial Statements

Treasurer Jon Mugglestone had nothing to report other than to thank Tonya Carr for her work on budget preparation. In reviewing the financial statements, Tonya reported that she added Gunnison wildflower seed as an inventory item, so that it is shown as an asset instead of an expense and is better reflected in cost of goods sold. She reported that the $7,317.61 shown under Grant Income is the amount NFWF currently owes the District; NFWF has paid the earlier outstanding balance. Tonya now invoices NFWF monthly and removes each invoice when payment is received so that the income is recorded in its proper place.

Tonya also reported that on October 26, she made a journal entry to correct the District's sales tax accounts. City sales tax collection switched to the State, and city sales tax payments had not been recorded correctly since 2022, so the books showed an amount owed that the District did not owe. The adjustment will appear in next month's financial statements and did not require Board action at this meeting.

Tonya reported that she added signature pages for the minutes and financial statements to the board packet and asked supervisors to sign them after each meeting because grant funders, the bank, and other entities regularly request Board-approved documents. The Board agreed and signed the pages during the meeting. Mark Rozman moved to approve the financial statements as presented, and Jesse Kruthaupt seconded. The motion carried.

Old Business

District Conservation Technician Report

Jules Iovino reported that she has been with the District for about a month and has completed much of the NRCS onboarding. Her background check and fingerprinting are complete, and her LincPass exemption came through the previous week, allowing her to begin mandatory USDA and Farm Bill training. That morning, she completed the first six modules of the NRCS cultural resources training and passed the exam, which makes her eligible for the in-person training. She met the NRCS team in Montrose and attended an engineering training on working with private landowners, focusing on irrigation practices and pipelines, as well as a site visit in Gunnison County for a pipeline installed the previous week.

Jules attended the CSU Extension and UGRWCD train-the-trainer workshop for the no-till drill and, the following week, seeded about an acre and a half with the drill at the Cranor farm. She has completed three Gunnison Sage-Grouse building permit reviews for Gunnison County, all of which were approved. The NFWF Western Big Game grant was awarded in full, and Jules credited Ben Prior for the application. She and Tonya have been meeting with partners on next steps in project planning and are working on the compliance form and NEPA documents for site clearance. Jules is working with the U.S. Forest Service on a categorical exclusion for cheatgrass spraying in the Almont Triangle, likely for next fall.

Jules attended her first Gunnison Sage-Grouse Committee meeting on October 21 and prepared those minutes as well as retroactive minutes for May and June. She has joined the planning committee for the 2027 Sage Grouse Summit and Festival and will attend its biweekly meetings. In response to a question, Jules reported that the event will be April 1–3, 2027, with the first two days in the ballrooms at Western Colorado University and the third day, the festival, outdoors, including a 5K run and a 1K kids' run; a tentative schedule is expected around the end of January. Supervisors noted that she has had a busy first month, and Jules said she is happy with the position so far.

District Manager Report

CCDEA Guidance on NRCS Office Space: Tonya reported that at the train-the-trainer workshop she met Emily Schwaller of the Colorado Conservation District Employee Alliance (CCDEA), who advised that as long as the District continues to do Farm Bill work, even at a reduced capacity, District staff may stay in the NRCS office and use the computer. If issues arise after January, the Board can send a letter, and CCDEA will help. Tonya noted that Jules may need to sign an agreement stating that the computer is used only for Farm Bill work. Jules reported that she was included in a recent NRCS meeting about office space; she may be moved to a smaller desk, but there will be a place for her.

DCT Position Funding for 2027: Tonya reported that through the RESTORE Colorado grant awarded to UGRWCD, the District will receive approximately $63,000 for the DCT position over 2027 and 2028. This reduces the District's remaining need for the position in 2027 to approximately $12,600. Funding for 2028 remains an open question and will depend in part on whether DCT funding becomes available to the District again. Tonya noted that without the RESTORE Colorado funding, the District would have been short approximately $38,000 to $40,000.

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Grant: Tonya reported that the BOR grant has been awarded. No project funds can be spent in 2026 because the grant was not included in the 2026 budget and because NEPA requirements are still being assessed. The District has sent BOR the NEPA documentation for all sites except the Ocate site, where the environmental and cultural resources review is still with NRCS; the landowner cannot be reimbursed until the District receives that documentation.

NFWF Conservation Partners Program Reimbursements: Tonya reported that reimbursement requests are now submitted monthly.

UGRWCD Grant Request: Tonya reported that UGRWCD returned the District's $15,000 request and asked that it be resubmitted at $10,000 with revisions. UGRWCD does not want to fund certain items, such as door prizes for the Annual Meeting, but will fund the catering. The student day of the wildfire mitigation workshop in Crested Butte, which is student-led and held in partnership with Katya Schloesser of CEEE and the high school, is funded by those partners and will be left out of the request. Tonya will resubmit the revised request this week.

Biophilia Grant: Tonya reported that the statement of work still needs to be updated to replace Ben Prior with Jules, and it was waiting on Jules's new email address. Jules will check with Marcella Tarantino on where to send the updated information.

Colorado Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise (NDME) Grant: Tonya reported that the District received a decision on October 26 and was not funded; there were 52 applicants and nine awards. Had the grant been awarded, the District would not have a remaining funding need for the DCT position in 2027. The program opens every year, and Tonya will continue to apply and ask the grant administrator how to improve the application.

Targeted Conservation Project (TCP) Proposal: Tonya reported that no decision has been received. Dan Olson reported that TCP awards are scheduled to be announced on Friday, October 30.

7th Grade Mill Creek Youth Summit: Tonya reported that the Summit was held on September 18. It did not rain, although conditions were soggy, and the event went well. The Summit has been held for close to 40 years.

Ocate Site: Dan Olson reported that Mike Schaefer, the landowner for the Ocate site, passed away over the weekend. It is not yet known whether that project will move forward, and Dan will follow up.

New Business

District Conservation Technician Report

Jules reported that she and Tonya will attend the Western Colorado University and Coldharbour biochar workshop on November 4–5 to learn about biochar's restoration benefits. She will join Marcella Tarantino in November to plan a low-tech, process-based restoration project with NRCS in Montrose. On October 26, she took part in a site assessment with the BLM at Yellow Pine Ridge, where the partners hope to obtain NRCS funding to plan low-tech, process-based restoration projects.

In discussing the biochar workshop, it was noted that the kilns may be shown at the Farm and Ranch Expo in Montrose, that Shavano Conservation District is considering inoculating biochar for use as a soil amendment, and that biochar relates to wildfire mitigation work. The Farm and Ranch Expo, held with Shavano Conservation District, is Friday and Saturday, November 13–14, in Montrose, along with a water conference. The District was invited to have a booth last year but does not have the capacity this year.

District Manager Report

Gunnison County Charges for Service Grant: Tonya reported that she submitted the 2027 application on October 14 and kept the request at $10,000.

NFWF Western Big Game Grant: Tonya reported that project maps are being updated and will need to be resubmitted. Jules is working on getting ArcGIS on her computer so she can prepare the missing maps.

CDA Noxious Weed Grant: Tonya reported that the personnel change on the grant has been made. Because the grant was not included in the 2026 budget, the District cannot reimburse partners until 2027; doing so in 2026 would have required a budget amendment. Partners can be paid as soon as the 2027 budget is in effect. The Board had no objection.

2027 Budget: Tonya reported that the draft 2027 budget was sent to the Board and that work on it will continue over the next month. Supervisors commended the draft as detailed and well put together and had no concerns; one supervisor will schedule time with Tonya to walk through a few items. Tonya is available for a budget work session if supervisors would like one.

2027–2029 Strategic / Long-Range Plan: Tonya reviewed the draft plan with the Board, and supervisors commended the work that went into it. The draft follows the format of the previous plan, reports the District's 2024–2026 accomplishments, and adds a focus on wildfire mitigation and forest management, an area where more grant opportunities are expected. The three-year roadmap includes seeking capacity funding for an additional position for fire mitigation or forest management, with possible hiring between 2028 and 2029 if funding is secured; reapplying for DCT funding for 2028; and continuing to close out and report on current grants in 2029. In response to a question, Tonya confirmed that the full draft sent to the Board includes the District's sage-grouse, wet meadow, and other ongoing work. It was noted that if District revenues or expenditures exceed $1,000,000, the District will be subject to full audit requirements; Tonya noted that an audit would reduce the paperwork required for grant applications. Supervisors are asked to review the draft and send Tonya any changes.

The Board discussed adding the measuring flume program to the 2027 roadmap. Jesse Kruthaupt estimated a program of about 20 flumes with a budget of approximately $220,000, including flumes, optional sensors, installation support, and staff time for Tonya and Jules. It was noted that the program would require staff time to coordinate with landowners, but it would be good community engagement and would help with capacity funding.

John Rozman Recognition: Tonya noted that John Rozman is retiring from the Board after close to 40 years of service and suggested that the District recognize him. The Board agreed to present him with a plaque at the Annual Meeting.

Signature Pages: In response to a question about how many signatures are needed on the monthly signature pages, it was noted that four supervisor signatures are needed for the budget and fiscal documents and three for other documents.

RESTORE Colorado Funding: The Board discussed how RESTORE Colorado funds will move from UGRWCD, the grantee, to the District, and whether a separate agreement or an amendment to an existing agreement with UGRWCD is needed. Tonya reported that the District will submit invoices with timesheets to UGRWCD and that she has a spreadsheet to track them. Because the District will have several funding arrangements with UGRWCD, including BOR, RESTORE Colorado, and the $10,000 grant, it was agreed that clarifying them would be helpful. Tonya will ask Sonja Chavez of UGRWCD whether she would like an agreement specific to RESTORE Colorado.

2027 Annual Meeting: Tonya reported that a date needs to be set soon and proposed Tuesday, March 23, or Wednesday, March 24, 2027. Supervisors had no preference between the two and agreed that the week works. Tonya will check venue availability and schedule the meeting.

2027 Youth Wildfire Resilience Summit / 2027 Annual Gunnison Wildfire Workshop, April 23 – 24, 2027.

Measuring Flume Program: Jesse Kruthaupt asked whether the District should apply to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, noting that an application submitted by mid-November could allow installations to begin next year and that the next application cycle is December 1. In discussion, Tommy Rozman explained that the State program covers only the main flume at the headgate, is not weighted by income or operation size, and is intended to place measurement devices on every ditch; flumes that are bent, rusted, or made of wood qualify. Supervisors discussed how the District would prioritize requests. They agreed that the first step is to make landowners aware of the State program before its November 20 deadline and to ask whether they would be interested in a local program if they miss the deadline or do not qualify, since a local program could offer more flexibility. Tonya will share the State program information by email and social media and can prepare a short survey to gauge interest.

With no further business, the meeting ended at approximately 3:35 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Farm and Ranch Expo, Montrose: Friday and Saturday, November 13–14, 2026.

State Diversion Measurement Installation Program application deadline: November 20, 2026.

2027 Annual Meeting: Tuesday, March 23, or Wednesday, March 24, 2027 (proposed).

2027 Sage Grouse Summit and Festival: April 1–3, 2027.

2027 Youth Wildfire Resilience Summit / 2027 Annual Gunnison Wildfire Workshop

April 23 – 24, 2027

The next regular GCD Board Meeting is November 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting ended at approximately 3:35 p.m.

Board Approval

These minutes are submitted for approval at the November 17, 2026, regular meeting of the Gunnison Conservation District Board of Supervisors.