From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: BOCC
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Boards and Commissions Application
Date: Friday, December 4, 2020 9:54:24 AM

[EXTERNAL SENDER - USE CAUTION]

Boards and Commissions Application

Board/Commission or position applying for:	Colorado River Water Conservation District Board
First and Last Name	Kathleen Curry
Address	54542 US Highway 50
City	Gunnison
Phone	970-209-5537
Email Address	kathleencurry@montrose.net
Why would you like to serve on this Board or Commission?	I have worked with the River District for 20 years plus on regional water management issues. I would very much like to continue to bring Gunnison County's perspective to their board of directors. Water issues are going to continue to intensify and I have the time and background to serve on the County's behalf.
Additional Comments	I am looking forward to talking with the Board of Commissioners about their expectations and what I can do to meet them. I am forwarding my letter of interest and and a letter of support from the Gunnison County Stockgrowers. Thank you for your consideration.

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

From: kathleencurry@montrose.net
To: Katherine Haase
Subject: Kathleen Curry"s letter of interest
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:59:15 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER - USE CAUTION]

Dear Katherine,
I am hoping that you can pass along to the commissioners that I need to amend my letter of interest in the Colorado River Water Conservation District board seat. I stated in my letter that I had the support of the Gunnison County Stockgrowers, which was based on a verbal confirmation from their president-elect. The board met today and in a split vote did not vote to endorse me. If you could let them know that I would be most grateful. Sorry for the extra work – I am looking forward to talking with the commissioners about the position!
Sincerely,
Kathleen Curry

Kathleen Curry
54542 US Highway 50
Gunnison, CO 81230
Cell 970-209-5537
Land Line 970-641-0699
kathleencurry@montrose.net

December 4, 2020

Gunnison County Board of Commissioners
200 East Virginia Avenue
Gunnison, CO 81230

Re: Colorado River Water Conservation District Board of Directors

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Colorado River Water Conservation District Board of Directors on behalf of Gunnison County. This letter provides you with a summary of my water related experience and explains why I would like to serve on the board.

The Colorado River Water Conservation District (River District for short) is an important player in the overall water management arena. The River District takes the lead both locally and at the state level on water issues that are of interest to the people of the Colorado River Basin and has done so since its inception. Our local entities work in close collaboration with the River District on issues such as demand management planning, water infrastructure improvements, watershed health, legislative affairs, water quality, and Colorado River Compact compliance. Ongoing climate change resulting in drought conditions are driving a number of water management challenges in our basin. Forest health, ongoing shortages on the Colorado River, conversion of productive ag land, recreational and environmental needs – all are issues that we have been and will be dealing with in the future in Gunnison County. The River District is engaged actively on all of these fronts.

Gunnison County has been lucky to have an exemplary representative on the River District board for many years, Mr. Bill Trampe. As you know, Bill brought personal experience, unique insight and a willingness to advocate on behalf of the County to this time-intensive position. I would strive to do the same.

My husband and I run an active cattle and hay operation in the Tomichi Creek drainage. In addition to operating the ranch business, I have stayed involved with the water community in general. I have been fortunate to have served the last three years as Chair of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, and that role has facilitated enhanced involvement in regional water management issues. These include development of our Basin Implementation Plan and update of the Colorado Water Plan, working with the other three West Slope roundtables on Colorado River Compact related issues , consideration of a demand management program, and development of strategies for contending with forest health concerns.

In addition to my volunteer work on the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, I work part time as a professional lobbyist on behalf of two water clients. Both are major water providers in Mesa County – the Ute Water Conservancy District and the Grand Valley Water Users Association (GVWUA). Ute Water is a municipal provider and relies on the Colorado River for its water supply. My work for Ute has exposed me to many of the issues that the River District contends with, especially the mainstem operations and relationships

with upstream entities. I also represent the GVWUA, and they are an agricultural water provider that diverts off the Colorado. Working with GVWUA has broadened my understanding of Colorado Basin agricultural water issues. I have been hired by both entities to monitor the legislature, provide updates, and keep them informed about legislation that could impact their operations. My work at the Capitol will also be useful if I am selected to serve on the River District board.

My past work in the water field includes serving in the Colorado legislature on behalf of House District 61. I chaired the House Agriculture and Natural Resources committee for 5 of those 6 years and ran somewhere in the range of 50 water bills during my tenure. I sponsored the bill that created the RICD (Recreation In-Channel Diversion) program, which facilitated establishment of the Gunnison Whitewater Park, ran legislation to address the ongoing Right-to-Float, sponsored bills on behalf of both the ag and environmental community, and worked closely with the River District throughout my service. Prior to being elected to the legislature I managed the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District. When I served as manager of the Upper Gunnison District, Gunnison County water users experienced one of the worst droughts on record. The River District stepped up during that time and negotiated agreements that kept downstream calls off the river which helped our water users through that critical shortage. I would like to continue to support their efforts to help water users in our basin.

I have a bachelor's degree in Resource and Agricultural Economics from the University of Massachusetts, and a graduate degree in Water Resources Planning and Management from Colorado State University. I have the time, the background, and a proven track record of advocating on behalf of the Gunnison community and the diverse range of water interests that are present here. I am honored to have the support of the Gunnison Stockgrowers Association. Your consideration of my application would be much appreciated.

Regards,

Kathleen Curry

54542 US Highway 50
Gunnison, CO 81230
kathleencurry@montrose.net
Cell 970-209-5537
Home 970-641-0699

December 17, 2020

Gunnison County Board of Commissioners

200 East Virginia

Gunnison, CO 81230

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is written in support of Kathleen Curry being appointed, by your board, to the Colorado River Water Conservation District Board of Directors. In full disclosure, Kathleen is a member of our family and also ranch, but this should have no impact on our comments as related to her career water experience and understanding of historical and current water issues.

There may be no more critical time as now with regard to water in this basin, its' importance to our community as a whole, and how it is managed as we move into an uncertain future. It is important to have a person representing Gunnison County that has a connection to the land and water with respect to not only ranching and agriculture, but also the multitude of other uses of water in the Gunnison Basin. Kathleen brings this unique combination to the table and can carry Gunnison County's positions forward.

During her over 20 years in the basin, Kathleen has been involved directly in agriculture irrigation with Peterson Ranch. She knows firsthand the catastrophic impacts of drought on the fields that go dry but also the impacts to the environment and recreational uses. From her past experience as manager of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, and her 3 terms as a Colorado State Representative, she has developed the skills to bridge the divide between these sometimes competing uses to create win/win scenarios. With her working with the Board of County Commissioners, we believe more positive steps could be taken to create a future where water continued to stay within this basin and sustain our diverse economy.

However, when, not if, the stakes rise and Lower Colorado River Basin interests and/or Colorado Front Range interests, or both, intensify their pursuit of Upper Gunnison Basin water, there is no one that is more qualified than Kathleen to match their intelligence and veracity. Gunnison County needs a Colorado River Water Conservation District Board member that is not afraid to rise up and be heard in defending what is best for Gunnison County. As water shortages potentially intensify and the heavy hitters come to play, we need somebody in this position that will stand up to these folks in defense of all our livelihoods. There is no doubt Kathleen is the person that will do this job. We respectfully ask the commissioners to appoint her to this position and let her get to work.

Sincerely,

Peterson Ranch, Inc.

Harry Peterson 641-0863

Greg Peterson 641-0699

Jason Peterson 641-8815

Gunnison Valley
CATTLEWOMEN

Members of the Board of County Commissioners
200 East Virginia Ave.
Gunnison, CO 81230

Gunnison Valley
CATTLEWOMEN

December 19, 2020

Members of the Board of County Commissioners

200 East Virginia Ave.

Gunnison, CO 81230

Re: Colorado River Water Conservation District Board Appointment

Dear Members of the Board of Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of the Gunnison Valley Cattlewomen to express our support for Kathleen Curry's application to serve on the Colorado River Water Conservation District Board of Directors. Kathleen is well qualified for the position and has the background and time needed to be a strong representative on behalf of the County.

As you may know Kathleen and her husband Greg Peterson operate a cattle and hay operation on Tomichi Creek and Razor Creek east of Gunnison. Greg is a third generation rancher and is following in his father's footsteps to continue cattle production on ground that was originally homesteaded in the 1880's. Kathleen has worked in the water arena her entire career, starting out in the Gunnison Basin in 1997 when she was hired to manage the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District. The early 2000's brought an extreme drought to the Gunnison Valley, and Kathleen worked closely with the Colorado River Water Conservation District to try to reduce the impacts of downstream senior water right calls that would have severely impacted the ag water use in the Upper Basin. The assistance of the River District was invaluable at that time and it continues to be in today's environment.

Kathleen has worked in the water business since her time as manager of the Upper Gunnison. She has chaired the Gunnison Basin Roundtable for the last 3 years, which has furthered her strong relationship with the River District and her understanding of the issues the River District board deals with. The Colorado mainstem, the activities of General Assembly, Colorado River Compact shortages, development and maintenance of infrastructure, and advocacy on the part of the West Slope are all issues facing their Board of Directors. Mr. William Trampe has long been Gunnison County's representative on the board and has done a great job of advocating on behalf of the agricultural water

users in the basin. We believe that Kathleen would take a similar approach based on her commitment to the industry and her proven track record of being a strong advocate.

Kathleen also served in the Colorado General Assembly as the Representative of House District 61 for six years. She ran numerous water and ag related bills and worked closely with the River District throughout her service. Her familiarity with the activities of the legislature would serve her well as our member of the board. She currently lobbies part time on behalf of two water clients from Mesa County, so she is active in the Colorado Water Congress and is up to speed on the activities of the General Assembly. Kathleen is one of only two lobbyists that advocate for West Slope water issues in Denver. We think that is an advantage for Gunnison County as well.

We need strong representation on the River District board to ensure that Gunnison County's needs are addressed. She will be an effective voice for the county at large and the agricultural water users in the particular as we move forward into the challenging water times ahead. The ongoing drought, the loss of storage in Lake Powell, the pressure from the Front Range on West Slope water supplies – these are all on the River District's plate. Kathleen is not employed full time by any local entities, which reduces the potential for time or other conflicts. We hope you will consider her for the position.

Respectfully,

Hannah Cranor
3600 County Road 10
Gunnison, CO 81230
970-275-4026

Gunnison County Commissioners

200 E. Virginia Avenue

Gunnison, CO 81230

Dear Gunnison County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for Kathleen Curry for the appointment for the Colorado River Water Conservation District (the River District in short).

Kathleen and I both have something in common that is dear to our heart – cattle ranching, however, I support Kathleen for this position for so many additional reasons. Kathleen has been active in the water world for 30 years, and is in the process of serving her third term as the Chair of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable.

I have been able to work with Kathleen in many different ways for the past several years including preserving Stockgrower's history. She is very willing to collaborate and is able to make connections with people from any and every background. Kathleen is willing to be an advocate for ranchers who otherwise would have no representation, however, she is able to balance that with the needs of the other water users in our basin.

Kathleen received a bachelor's degree in Resource and Agricultural Economics from the University of Massachusetts, and a graduate degree in Water Resources Planning and Management from Colorado State University with a specialty in irrigated agriculture. She follows that education up with on the ground experience running a cattle and hay ranch in the Tomichi and Razor Creek valleys. The on the ground experience is invaluable and makes her the most rounded and experienced candidate.

Kathleen is extremely up to date with legislation. Her part time work leads her to monitor the legislature, provide updates, and keeps them informed about legislation that could affect their operation. Kathleen served three terms in the Colorado Legislature representing part of Colorado in House District 61. In that period, she ran approximately 50 water and pro-agriculture related bills.

The support of the River District is essential to Gunnison basin water users – and I feel that Kathleen is the ideal candidate for the job. Kathleen will represent all parties evenly, she has the education, and is more than qualified for the job.

Sincerely,

Hannah Cranor

Vice President Cranor Inc

Owner Cranor Charolais

December 18, 2020

Received
County Administration
12/23/2020
Copy BOCC

Members of the Board of County Commissioners

200 East Virginia Ave.

Gunnison, CO 81230

Re: Colorado River Water Conservation District Board Appointment

Dear Members of the Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for Kathleen Curry's application to serve on the Colorado River Water Conservation District Board of Directors. I have known Kathleen since her early days in the Gunnison Valley when she served as the manager of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District. I think she would be a strong advocate for the County on the River District board.

I worked with Kathleen when she served as manager of the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District and I served on the Board of Directors. The early 2000's brought an extreme drought to the Gunnison Valley, and Kathleen and the Board worked closely with the Colorado River Water Conservation District to try to protect the Upper Gunnison Basin. Kathleen and the board also worked with the River District to implement a strong Taylor Users Group process that balances the various water demands on the Taylor River, and we developed a protocol for using Taylor Reservoir water to prevent downstream water right calls. The assistance of the River District was invaluable at that time and it continues to be today.

Kathleen continued her work in the water business after leaving her position as manager of the Upper Gunnison District to serve as the Representative of House District 61 in the Colorado Legislature for 3 terms. She ran numerous water related bills including a very controversial bill that would have gone a long way toward resolving the "right to float" issue. She passed legislation to establish water rights for whitewater parks, and passed a bill that dealt with growth and water supply adequacy. Kathleen worked closely with the River District as a legislator, and her knowledge of how the legislature works would be a good thing if she is appointed. Kathleen is currently the chair of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable and works part time as a lobbyist on behalf of two west slope water users.

I believe that Kathleen would support all types of water users in the County based on her track record, including agriculture. We need a strong representative on our behalf. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Schumacher

Three Rivers Resort & Outfitting