

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
April 1, 2025**

The April 1, 2025 meeting was held in the Board of County Commissioners' meeting room located at 200 E. Virginia Avenue, Gunnison, Colorado. Present, either in person or via Zoom, were:

Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson  
Elizabeth Smith, Vice-Chairperson  
Jonathan Houck, Commissioner  
Matthew Hoyt, County Attorney

Matthew Birnie, County Manager  
Holly Perry, Deputy County Clerk  
Others Present as Listed in Text

**GUNNISON COUNTY LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY MEETING:**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Puckett Daniels to approve the consent agenda for the Gunnison County Local Liquor Licensing Authority as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Alcohol Beverage License #04-00106; Elk Creek Marina LLC dba Lake Fork Marina; 6/3/2025 to 6/3/2026
2. Alcohol Beverage License #04-00107; Elk Creek Marina LLC dba Elk Creek Marina; 6/3/2025 to 6/3/2026
3. Alcohol Beverage License #03-01378; Elk Creek Marina LLC dba Pappy's Restaurant; 6/3/2025 to 6/3/2026

**ADJOURN:** Commissioner Smith adjourned the meeting of the Gunnison County Local Liquor Licensing Authority at 8:31 am.

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING:**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Puckett Daniels called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** There were no changes made to the agenda.

**SCHEDULING:** The Upcoming Meetings Schedule was discussed and updated.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Contract Amendment #3; Contract No 24 IBEH 182014; Health and Human Services; 8/29/2023 to 6/30/2026; \$181,679.67
2. Grant Application; Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT); Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project; Juvenile Services; \$140,144.40
3. Temporary Road Use Agreement; Gunnison Nordic Club; Public Works; 5/22/2025 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
4. Option Letter #7; CSBG 24-026; Health and Human Services; 3/11/2025 to 9/30/2027; \$16,166
5. Opt-in Letter; COVID-19 ELC 2.3; Health and Human Services; 8/1/2025 to 4/30/2026; \$35,443
6. Professional Services Agreement; Advanced Chemical Transport, LLC dba ACTenviro; Public Works; 3/18/2025 to 7/1/2025; \$52,912.53
7. Grant Application; Health Resources and Services Administration; Juvenile Services; FY 2025-2026; \$400,000
8. Acknowledgment of County Manager's Signature; Professional Services Agreement; JEO Consulting Group, Inc.; Emergency Management; 3/21/2025 to 1/30/2026; \$73,150
9. Ratification; Letter of Support; Congressional Directed Spending
10. Acknowledgment of County Manager Signature; Monitoring Service Agreement; Johnson Controls; Sawtooth Apartments; \$600 Annually

**COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

1. Whetstone – County Manager Matthew Birnie relayed they are coming up on the financial closing and they are posting the preliminary official statement with which the underwriters will start marketing the bonds. He also stated the Whetstone transaction received an A+ rating from S&P and the transaction will be a AA municipal bond issue due to being able to obtain bond insurance. CM Birnie expressed they are as well positioned as they can be for this kind of project and relayed to Commissioner Puckett Daniels that there will be some documents to sign. Commissioner Smith commented that the conservative financial approach will then have a direct impact on the types of rents they are able to offer on the back end.

**UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no persons present for discussion.

**COMMISSIONER ITEMS:**

**Commissioner Puckett Daniels:**

1. QQ Meeting – Commissioner Puckett Daniels attended the meeting in Granby last week to which they had a good conversation about forest health and protecting the watershed. Since Gunnison County is not a part of the Northwest Council of Government (COG) she was able to share the work done in Gunnison County. She then relayed that while the County is supportive of water projects and water funding, there's often trade-offs.
2. Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee (STOR) – Commissioner Puckett Daniels and Commissioner Houck attended a STOR meeting last week. A request was made to pool local funds to hire more crews to support our Federal partners in land management and specifically the Forest Service. While a good, but not robust conversation was had, a follow up call is scheduled with interested parties to speak about the best approach to supporting public lands. She relayed the request is to have multiple resources pool resources together for \$60,000 to hire a crew. Commissioner Puckett Daniels asked for County views to bring back to the next meeting.

Commissioner Houck noted they were focused on recreation in the meetings whereas there are other gaps in other areas as well. He stated that the meeting was to understand the big picture, playing the short and long term goal game simultaneously, and to be thoughtful at what it looks like.

Commissioner Smith noted that there are cuts that will affect County Staff and that more financial responsibilities are being pushed onto the County. She explained reservations on whether the County will have the revenues to sustainably contribute when there are shortfalls in other areas as well. Commissioner Puckett Daniels stated she will bring these issues to the next STOR meeting and said she would like the public to recognize the impacts of the decisions that are being made.

Commissioner Houck emphasized the importance of these issues but to know that recreation is only one element to the public lands issues. He also said they are committed to working for all their constituencies but cannot do everything for every group that has a request to the County.

Commissioner Puckett Daniels commented that she will bring some of these ideas and comments to the next meeting. CM Birnie emphasized the need to assess what the impacts are going to be within the County before any external commitments are made as well as taking care of people first.

**Commissioner Houck:**

1. Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee (STOR) – Commissioner Houck gave his views with Commissioner Puckett Daniels's Commissioner item.
2. Region 10 – Commissioner Houck relayed that the enterprise zones were remapped and there is no appeal process that he knows of. He requested a 15-minute discussion to review the new boundary lines.
3. Senator Bennet – Commissioner Houck is working with Senator Bennet about the introduction of the Gunnison Outdoor Resource Protection Act (GORP).
4. Congressman Hurd – Commissioner Houck is trying to get in touch with Congressman Hurd directly to discuss the Productive Public Lands Bill he introduced.
5. West Elk Mine – Commissioner Houck relayed that West Elk Mine has requested a royalty rate reduction and there has been no consultation to the Local Government. He stated he has reached out to Jonathan Asher who works for the Governor to get some more information and get the County inserted into the process.

**Commissioner Smith:**

1. Letter to Congressman Hurd – Commissioner Smith explained she has sent Congressman Hurd a letter as her capacities as an individual Commissioner and Vice Chair of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee that emphasized the impact to the local processes and long-term work and that being a counter to what he ran on his platform.
2. Legislation – Commissioner Smith stated she met with Senator Catlin about some bills including Severance Taxes, Water Funding Task Force, Local Marketing Districts and County Lodging Tax Expansion, and a Highway Users Tax Fund (HUTF) classification.
3. Child Welfare – Commissioner Smith noted they are pulling apart the formula and believes it warrants a closer look and that some Counties are projecting concerning overages to fill the gap.
4. Eco-Flight Tour – Commissioner Smith was able to participate in an eco-flight tour over the Gunnison National Forest to look at winter motorized activity and she reported that they did not see a lot of activity passing the threshold. She relayed the purpose was to get insight for the Winter Recreation Management Plan which is now on hold for the foreseeable future.
5. Gunnison Valley Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) – Commissioner Smith said there was a conversation regarding Municipalities or the County implementing an impact fee for the

infrastructure and have development pay its way for the infrastructure needs of the RTA. She has some concerns regarding this, especially since there is already a 1% sales tax dedicated to the RTA. Commissioner Puckett Daniels agreed and commented she had flagged it to have further discussions regarding it. Commissioner Houck also agreed and said it would be a different conversation if revenue were tumbling.

- 6. Mayor Plata – Commissioner Smith had a conversation regarding outreach to the Immigration Community to help facilitate more connection with the Sheriff’s Office and outlining policies and the law in order to have a clear understanding.

**ADJOURN:** Commissioner Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:44 am.

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Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson

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Elizabeth Smith, Vice-Chairperson

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Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

Minutes Prepared By:

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Holly Perry, Deputy County Clerk

Attest:

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Kathy Simillion, County Clerk