



EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 360 Eagle, CO 81631 (970) 236-6215

Monthly Board Meeting Agenda August 13, 2025, 5:30pm
1286 Chambers Ave, Unit #201, Eagle CO

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/tmt-ihpy-xid>

Or dial: (US) +1 402-628-0151 PIN: 705 102 112#

Meeting called to order at: 5:46pm

Supervisors Present: Scott Jones, Wendy Sacks, Clayton Gerard, Scott Schlosser, Niki Luark, Linn Brooks

Supervisors Absent: Shawn Bruckman

Guests Present: Stephen Jaouen

Approval of Minutes: Motioned by Scott Schlosser, seconded by Wendy. Motion carried.

Roll Call Reports: Board member miles & hours spent on conservation starting with the last regular meeting held July 9, 2025.

BOARD MEMBER	HOURS	MILES
Shawn Bruckman	-	-
Scott Jones	25	40
Wendy Sacks	12	10
Scott Schlosser	7	30
Clayton Gerard	8	28
Niki Luark	9	200
Linn Brooks	17	240

Guests:

NRCS Report:

- EQIP Contracting- \$460,000; 48 contracts. This year: \$400,000 in payments so far
- Hiring freeze until mid October (6-8 months until things start to open up)
- Drought- D3 across the county;
- New fire up in Yampa, 1,500 acres

- Lee Fire- containment 4-5%
- Unfunded Cooperative Agreement: Clayton motions to approve, Wendy seconds. All approve, motion passes.

Topics to Discuss:

Program & Staff Updates:

- Nox Weed Cost Share:
 -
- Wolf Grant Update:
 - \$35/hr + each application will receive \$100 for tractor labor - CDA approved this update and ECCD will move forward with this
 - Trail cameras and OnX are approved costs
 - 4 applications:
 - Niki Luark - one photo that does not show a calf that is buried
 - Request for \$2,973.18
 - Lacey Bair- cannot include calves that were buried before the program start.
 - Request for \$559.98
 - **Wendy moves to approve both applications. Scott S. seconds. All in favor, motion passes.**
 - We will retroactively add \$100 to the two previous reimbursements, and will write checks to both applicants at the next reconciliation meeting
- Forestry Program:
 -
- Seed Sales:
 - We have spent \$16,000K, but have only sold \$5,700K
 - If we hold onto it until next year, the seed will still be OK.
- Beyond Lawn:
 -
- CIG: Virtual Fencing:
 -
- FAPL: Virtual Fencing:
 - 2026 Collars
 - About \$42K to spend on collars for 2026
 - Gerards are interested
 - Use collars for EC producers first, then move collars outside of the county

General ECCD Updates:

- CACD Resolution Form:
 - Update:
 - CACD held a meeting on 8/11 for ECCD to introduce this to CD's throughout the state, to gather support. ECCD received majority support for making it a policy action item.
 - There were not enough participants for CACD to determine full CD support throughout the state
 - Colorado Watershed meeting on 9/3 - ECCD will be bringing policy action item regarding voter eligibility to the meeting
 - Narrow/tight Title

- Metrics on how many districts have this issue/how many board members in each District - request from Ken and Abbey
 - Options to lobby through Agricultural Committee or Lukens/Roberts
 - We will make a decision to pursue this option at the next board meeting, after the Colorado Watershed Meeting.
 - Scott J. suggests hiring Brett (CACD lobbyist) to help keep a pulse on the process, helping CACD. We will rediscuss this as well at the next board meeting, after the Colorado Watershed Meeting.
- **Wendy moved to submit the resolution to the Colorado Watershed at the meeting on 9/3, changing policy to an action item regarding qualified voter language in the statute. Scott S. seconds, all in favor. Motion passed.**
- Action Item- Add in background that CACD approved this as policy in 2024 - this is now an action item to turn it into legislation
- Land Use Code Update:
 - The deadline was extended a year
 - ECCD will still write a letter to BoCC, to request an ECCD staff or board member is on the Advisory Committee
 - We have hired Meighen for the year, with a budget of \$7,500
 - She has put together a spreadsheet with recommendations, and requires board feedback to the questions she has put together.
 - Laura has a working group meeting with County and other stakeholders on 8/21. Concerns from constituents will be brought forward at this meeting. Laura requests board member input on Meighen's spreadsheet prior to this meeting.
 - Laura will set up work sessions with Meighen, for the board to participate in.
- Letter of Support- CRD Shoshone
 - Permanent protection of the Shoshone Water Rights
 - ECCD board supports sending in a letter of support. Laura will draft a letter and send to Linn
- Annual Meeting:
 - October 8th - 4 Eagle Ranch
 - Laura will look at menu options to see if there are choices
 - Invite:
 - State Representatives
 - Dustin from CDA
 - Niki Bronson
 - Cindy Lair
 - USFS
 - Kerry donovan
 - Guest Speaker: Fire Panel
 - Hugh-Fairfield Smith
 - Eric Lovegren
 - Stephen
 - Pat - hydroaxing
 - Kristy Wallner
 - Topics
 - Wolves
 - Drought
 - Fire
 - Water

- Prize - \$1500 budget
 - We will decide on a prize at the next board meeting
 - Vote on final budget at the next meeting
- Eagle Airport Access Road
 - Site Tour
 - Suzy Ballard - there is a proposal from CDOT to put the new Gypsum bypass over her property along the Eagle River. This property has an immense amount of wildlife, and the bypass would significantly disrupt intact wildlife habitat along the Eagle River.
 - Clayton makes a motion to draft a letter of support for Suzy Ballard's property. Wendy seconds the motion, motion passes
- ECCD Property Update:
 - Property is too expensive, ECCD will not continue to pursue this property.
- Forage Nitrate Strip Test Fee
 - \$500 - approved at last board meeting
 - No charge for now - free for landowners

Treasurer's Report:

Master Financial Statement 2024/2025

- STAR program has ended and we received our final payment
- Submitted reimbursement requests for CIG, FAPL, AtBC.
- Allegra is back to being funded under the FAPL grant.

- On track for all of our expenditures
- \$70,000 in contingency

2026 budget:

- With the FAPL grant back online, we are looking at an increased annual net of over \$125,000 for 2026 and 2027.
- Laura proposes to utilize \$50,000 of these funds to hire Ryan full time, as a backup plan if ECCD does not receive the CWCB Beyond Lawn Phase II grant
- Wendy moves to offer Ryan a two year contract under the condition that the Foundation for America's Public Lands grant is active, or CWCB grant is approved. Scott J. seconds the motion, all in favor, motion passes.

- Notes from Ken
 - Wants to touch base with Laura and Wendy regarding 2026 budget
 - need to break out treasurer fees

- NACD Member: Wendy moves to approve joining NACD membership for \$775. Clayton seconds, all in favor, motion passes.
-

Upcoming Events:

- 8/28: Strategic Operating Plan (9am)

- 9/3: CO River Watershed Meeting (9am, NRCS Glenwood Springs Office)
- 9/8-9/10: CACD/NACD Annual Meeting (Golden)
- 9/17 Strategic Operating Plan (4pm)
- 9/18: CO Waterwise Symposium (ECCD to present on Beyond Lawn)

Broad discussion on other events that have happened in the past month- meetings, conferences, etc.

Mail Review:

Next Meeting Date: Sep 10, 2025

Adjourn: 8:15pm

Minutes taken by: Allegra Waterman-Snow , Program Manager

Action Items:

Laura - agenda item for next meeting - Bolts Lake

AUGUST BOARD PACKET

BOARD PACKET	
STAFF	
Laura Bohannon Executive Director	Allegra Waterman-Snow Program Manager
<p>Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting & Financials Statutory Requirements Elections Human Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biannual "Check-Ins" w/ Staff Public Relations + Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Presentations Grant Financial Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> w/ Program Manager Grant Writing Project Development Oversight: 3-Yr Strategic Operating Plan <p>Stakeholder Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action Collaborative Colorado Basin Roundtable 	<p>Manager/Oversight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond Lawn Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOA Engagement Virtual Fencing Projects (+ Admin) Noxious Weed Cost-Share Forestry Program Future Projects <p>Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Program Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> w/ Executive Director Final Review: All cost-share/rebate applications Research Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Collection + Analysis <p>Education/Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Newsletters Social Media Vail Daily Articles
Denyse Schrenker NR + Hort Specialist	Greg Welsh Conservation Technician
<p>Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond Lawn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> w/ Hort Seasonal <p>On-the-Ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond Lawn Landscape and Irrigation Evaluations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond Lawn Evaluation Reports w/ Hort Seasonal On-Site Visits: Noxious Weed Cost-Share <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Integrated Treatment Plans On-Site Visits (non-program related) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> w/ Conservation Technician <p>Education/Outreach</p>	<p>Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRCS Farm Bill Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Workgroup Meetings Planning / Contract Assistance CO Soil Health Program Wolf Conflict Mitigation Program Noxious Weed Cost-Share Forestry Program Seed/Seedling Sales <p>On-the-Ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-Site Visits: Noxious Weed Cost-Share <ul style="list-style-type: none"> w/ NR + Hort Specialist On-Site Visits (non-program related) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> w/ NR + Hort Specialist

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops + Classes • Vail Daily Articles 	Stakeholder Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eagle River Wildfire Collaborative • Eagle County Community Wildlife Roundtable
SEASONAL	
Ryan Vlaar Horticulture Specialist	Kim Wynn & Hayes Henderson Virtual Fencing Techs
Beyond Lawn Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BeyondLawn@eccdistrict.org email On-the-Ground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond Lawn Landscape and Irrigation Evaluations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Beyond Lawn Evaluation Reports Education/Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond Lawn Workshops: DIY Landscape and Irrigation • Vail Daily Articles Advertising Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond Lawn 	On-the-Ground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Collection (4th season) VENCE Program

PROGRAM & STAFF UPDATES
Beyond Lawn Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Program Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Laura and Allegra have submitted financial requests for rebate funding to: Town of Eagle, Town of Gypsum, Town of Avon, Town of Minturn, Edwards Metro District, EagleVail Metro District, and Eagle County Government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Laura and Allegra have been communicating with each town/municipality to answer questions about the financial requests and to adjust requests based upon town finances. ◦ A Beyond Lawn Impact Report has been created, in response to CWCB requests for water conservation results from Beyond Lawn Phase I ◦ The first Beyond Lawn newsletter has been sent out ◦ Town of Vail Lunch with Locals - presented a mini Beyond Lawn workshop on July 16th • Landscape and Irrigation Evaluations (since previous board meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Gypsum - 1 evaluation ◦ Eagle - 7 evaluations

- Edwards - 6 evaluations
- Avon - 4 evaluations
- Vail - 1 evaluation
- HOA Engagement (since previous board meeting)
 - 2 HOA evaluations completed (Avon & East Vail)
- Turf Replacement Rebate Applications
 - [Jaime Walker](#) - \$606.50
 - [Jim Crane \(Sundial HOA\)](#) - \$7,000.00
- Efficient Irrigation System Rebate Applications
 - [Gary Buck](#) - \$5,000.00
 - [Ernest Saeger](#) - \$896.25
 - [Michele Rae](#) - \$1,519.12
 - [Jana Lettovska](#) - \$5,000.00
- Financials
 - Turf Replacement:
 - \$91,874.99 has been spent in rebates
 - \$88,125.01 remains
 - Irrigation Upgrades:
 - \$19,148.16 has been spent in rebates
 - \$20,933.84 remains

Noxious Weed Cost-Share Program

- General Program Updates
 - The America the Beautiful grant has now been renamed to the America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative Program (AERI) to avoid confusion with an "America the Beautiful" Initiative, also known as "30 by 30".
 - Allegra has now taken over administration and reporting of this grant, and is now the contact point for grant communications.
- On-Site Evaluations (YTD)
 - 21
- Applications
 - N/A
- Financials
 - N/A

Wolf Conflict Mitigation Project

- General Program Updates
 - CDA will allow an extra \$100 to go toward tractor use/maintenance for each application that includes burials.
 - Example: producer requests reimbursement for 2 hours of labor for 2 burials. (reimbursement equation below)

- \$35/hr * 2hrs + \$100 = \$170 reimbursement
- On-Site Evaluations
 - N/A
- Applications
 - 4 total applications
 - 2 will need final review (Luark, Bair)
 - 2 will need additional check sent out (Fitzsimmons, Schlegel)
 - Both producers will need an additional check sent for \$100 to cover track use/maintenance
- Financials
 - \$4,354.16 in requests

CIG Virtual Fencing

- General Program Updates
 - A data meeting was held for participating producers on 7/14, where preliminary data results were discussed
 - Allegra is working with CSU to determine publishing options for the research data
 - Laura has submitted a request for reimbursement for the CIG grant, which will allow Allegra and Laura to determine what funds are remaining, and ways to spend those funds before the end of the grant in February 2026.

Foundation for America's Public Lands: Virtual Fencing

- General Program Updates
 - ECCD has contracted with Snaplands to perform monitoring and analysis for the Bocco Mountain project. They will be monitoring all BLM lands associated with virtual fencing and the permittee on Bocco Mountain.
 - They will begin monitoring in September, 2025
 - ECCD is not contracting with Halter right now, due to the steep costs of installing a Halter network in Eagle County. Instead, ECCD will continue to utilize Vence collars, which means that we can fund more producers under the grant.
 - Weed spraying and hand thinning is happening on the Bocco Mountain Allotment, which will be covered under the grant
 - Allegra is working with Kristy to have signs installed on Bocco, to help mitigate noxious weed spread and to facilitate community removal

CO Soil Health Program (+2.0)

- General Program Updates
 - N/A

Seed Sales

- Financials
 - \$5,540.11 revenue

STAFF Miscellaneous

- Laura conducted Mid Year Staff Reviews. We will review this in September's meeting when hopefully the whole board can attend
- Brooklyn Elmore has been onboarded as ECCD's social media contractor. She is in communication with Allegra daily to start, to ensure that the content created matches ECCD's vision and mission. She will be putting out her first ECCD newsletter in August.
- Greg - Potential project opportunity for new/beginning farmer for vegetation management, native seeding, hoop house construction, irrigation on a 5 acre property in Eagle
- Denyse - 5 site visits (general horticultural questions)

BOARD UPDATES

Eagle County Meeting with Burns Ranchers (Notes from Marcia Gilles)

Land Use Regulations (LURs) & Regulatory Environment

We understand the importance of clear, strong language in the **Land Use Regulations (LURs)** and appreciate that the timeline extension for the LUR rewrite is helpful. We will explore how the **Eagle County Conservation District (ECCD)** can have a seat at the table for the rewrite to ensure your perspectives are directly represented. Concerns regarding guide and outfitter zoning designations, changes for outfitter/guide permits, and their impact on agricultural and rancher rights are noted. We heard a clear call for **less regulation** and the "right fit" of regulation that supports, rather than hinders, ranching operations.

Supporting Ranching and Agriculture

Your dedication to ranching as a **multi-generational family business** and its critical role in land stewardship came through clearly. We heard that **grazing permits** are constantly under threat, and this, along with **water rights** and the **declining health of ranchers**, are primary factors driving people out of ranching. We understand the challenges of raising kids to take over the ranch, especially when many don't want to ranch anymore. Concerns about the lengthy **NEPA process** for stock pond permits and the disconnect between different levels of the Forest Service and **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** regarding grazing were also raised. We understand the feeling of having "targets on your backs" and the clear need for others to hear the story of how private ranchers maintain lands and ecosystems.

The importance of the **Fair and Rodeo** for educating youth in agricultural skills through **4-H** and the need to educate all kids, and the broader community, about agriculture and food production (like through "Ag Days") was a significant takeaway.

County Support and Communication

You highlighted several actionable ways the county can support the ranching community:

- **Regular Updates:** Implement quarterly updates at Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meetings with staff and metrics on ranching activities, and an annual "State of Ranching" presentation to create a two-way information pipeline.
- **Policy & Respect:** The need for a **BOCC policy to "Keep Ranchers Ranching"** and a clear demonstration of respect for ranchers was strongly expressed. Annual if not more frequent visits to your ranches and areas of concern are also important.
- **Legislative Insight:** Utilize the county's presence at the legislature and **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)** to provide feedback to ranchers on relevant developments. We recognize that ranchers often feel isolated from state legislators;

Wolf Management & Wildlife Issues

Tom's commitment to highlighting that we are "putting wolves in a losing situation" and his support for a **pause in the wolf reintroduction program** were clear. The need for more **range riders** and concerns about the current lethal removal criteria (three kills on the same ranch, not adjacent) are critical points we will consider. Attached is the letter from January advocating for a pause. We will work with Jon Swartout on the potential to sign another letter. We also heard concerns about wolves as **threatened species** and the impact of numbers being cut on grazing permits, alongside the idea of **adaptive management**, which depends on the range specialist interpretation and potential for inconsistency. Adaptive management can be a good tool but depends on interpretation.

It was also suggested that Representative Hurd come up to hear issues regarding wolves and threatened species.

Colorado River Basin Roundtable Meeting (July 28)

Memo

Update July 2025 Colorado River Basin Roundtable Meeting

July 28, 2025

To: Board of Supervisors, Eagle County Conservation District

From: Linn Brooks

Hydrology update:

Cumulative precipitation since the beginning of the water year (Oct. 1, 2024) was around average in the Colorado River Basin within the state until around mid-April. Since then, the basin has not received the normal spring and summer precipitation, and the monsoon has yet to materialize. Soils are very dry and much of the snowmelt went to filling the soil deficit and did not make it to streams. Many ditches are dry or nearly so, and stream flows in the county are running around 60-65% of average for this time of year. The runoff period inflow into Lake Powell is 50% of average, and forecasts predict that the lake elevation could hit minimum power pool in 2026, with volumes in the two big Colorado River reservoirs (Powell and Mead) within the lowest 10th percentile of historical data. Reservoir elevations hitting the management targets (operating tiers) in the 2007 Interim Operating Guidelines for the reservoirs may forestall hitting power pool but will have impacts to irrigation supplies from upstream reservoirs. Stream flow at Cameo is at the 10th percentile of historical data, slightly better than the recent drought years of 2002, 2012 and 2018, and similar to 2021. The seasonal outlook from the National Weather Service is for above average temperatures and below average precipitation.

Becky Mitchell update on Colorado River Compact negotiations:

Becky Mitchell, Colorado's Colorado River Commissioner and negotiator in discussions with Compact states over how to equitably manage the primary reservoirs in the Colorado River water supply system, Lakes Powell and Mead, shared an update with the Roundtable. The original Compact does not address the current conditions of extended severe drought, and coordinated operations of the reservoirs are currently governed by the 2007 Interim Guidelines which expire December 31, 2025 (governing operations through December 31, 2026). The subject of negotiations is: under what rules will the system operate after the expiration, given that the guidelines are not effective in stabilizing the system or responding to drought conditions. The US Department of Interior has stated that if the states fail to develop a workable plan, it will step in and make the rules to be imposed on the states. The negotiations are confidential, and little information has been shared over the last several years since discussions on the topic began (except that negotiators were not making progress), so today's update was unusual in that regard.

The states are currently evaluating a potential structure whereby the upper basin states (CO, NM, UT, WY) would make annual releases from Lake Powell based on the prior year's inflow to the reservoir, subject to upper and lower bounds, rather than being the static 7.5 million acre feet (MAF) required by the Compact. The lower basin states would then be responsible for managing their draw from Lake Mead to match the supply received, rather than the current practice of taking their 7.5 MAF allotted by the Compact, regardless of the natural supply. This approach requires complex analysis and rules that have yet to be worked out but is expected to help stabilize reservoir elevations over time and build back storage to provide drought resiliency. If appropriately developed, this approach would allow states to set aside legal arguments and focus on sound management.

It should be noted that since the upper basin states already manage their water use based on the

natural water supply from year to year, not much would change for water rights owners in these states. For the lower basin states, this will be a significant change. The lower basin states are currently working to adapt to their recent commitment to account for evaporative and transmission losses on their water use, which cuts into their acknowledged allotment (but has historically resulted in plummeting levels in Lake Mead and increasing risk of draining the reservoir), so additionally having to adjust to natural supply variations will be difficult.

The states have a deadline of November 11 to determine if they will proceed with the approach, although it is not expected that all details will be worked out at that time. This year's hydrology, along with the expiration of the interim guidelines, had created significant urgency for the negotiating parties.

Shoshone water rights preservation effort:

The Shoshone water right is the most senior water right in the upper Colorado River basin and serves to limit depletions of stream flows above the power plant from transbasin diverters and reservoir storage, ensure flows on the river for municipal, recreational and irrigation uses, and protect instream flows for aquatic habitat. The deadline for acquisition of the Shoshone water right by the Colorado River District is December 2027, and the process is currently on schedule. \$57MM has been raised from local entities, and the \$40MM awarded by the Biden Administration is still on hold by the current Administration. The purchase price for the water rights from Xcel is \$99MM.

A contingency requirement of the acquisition process is to coordinate with the CWCB Instream Flow Program in the effort to add Instream Flow to the list of beneficial uses of the existing Shoshone water rights. Any change of use case for a water right requires a determination of historic quantity used, which is the amount that is allowed for any new use of the water (generally smaller than the amount filed for under the original right). Front Range water providers are contesting the volumes calculated by the River District and will present their case at a hearing before the CWCB, set for September 16-18, during the upcoming CWCB board meeting. Because the CWCB will be a co-applicant on the water rights change case since it will hold the instream flow right if it is successfully changed, the River District is recommending that the agency take a neutral stance in the case. Forty-one entities have requested party status and are currently preparing pre-hearing and rebuttal statements.

The Colorado River District is soliciting letters of support from constituents on the Western Slope for the September CWCB hearing. The River District recommends submitting letters by the end of August and the River District will provide a template with potential talking points to assist interested entities with drafting. 147 letters have been received to date.

Zebra Mussel mitigation effort:

Maddy Baker, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Invasive Species Specialist, presented an update on the status of management of the Zebra Mussel (ZM) infection in Highline Reservoir, the Highline Ditch, and the Colorado and Eagle Rivers. ZMs are prolific reproducers and have no natural predators in our region. They can quickly infest drinking and irrigation water infrastructure, causing significant and expensive damage, on-going maintenance burden for system owners, and are nearly impossible to eradicate once established. Additionally, they effectively filter all nutrients from natural water,

potentially causing the collapse of ecosystems.

After a second chemical treatment of Highline Reservoir and leaving the lake dry over the winter, veligers (mussel larvae) were again found in the lake water this summer, and were also found in Mack Lake, located in Highline State Park. This year, veligers were also found in the Colorado River at the New Castle, Silt and "Dinosaur" boat ramps. The Colorado River has been designated positive for ZMs from its confluence with the Roaring Fork River to the state line. Negative sampling for 5 consecutive years is required to remove the river section from the positive designation. Additionally, an established population of adult ZMs was found in a private pond in Eagle County which discharges to the Eagle River. CPW took immediate actions in cooperation with the property owner to disconnect the pond from the river.

CPW will install a boat "hot tub" at Highline Lake next year, where boat owners can back their boats into a pool of 95-degree water to disinfect boats between put-in locations. The inspection, boat cleaning, and monitoring programs are being expanded to attempt to control the spread of ZMs in this region. A plan to treat the private pond in Eagle County is being developed, with the cooperation of the property owner. Maggie noted that not motorized watercraft and equipment are exempt from inspection for invasive species, so addressing the risk from these sources must be addressed through education and outreach.

Maddie urged roundtable partner organizations to use their communications channels to echo CPW messaging on the prevention of ZM spread and its potential to impact recreation on our local waterways and raise costs for all drinking water and irrigation infrastructure.

Soil Moisture Monitoring:

Helen Silver, CSU, is applying for a Colorado Water Plan grant, and a matching grant requested from the River District to expand the Colorado Open Soil Moisture Monitoring Network. The network is expected to improve soil moisture forecasting, drought and wildfire preparedness, and support to agricultural producers. She stated that Colorado is behind most other states in having a robust soil moisture monitoring network. The network received a \$1.4MM federal grant from congressional directive funds. The goal of this year's funds is to expand sensing equipment across the state, with 50-60 more sensors planned by end of year, adding sensors to existing weather stations. This effort is focused on filling the gap in Western Slope lower elevation forests and ag lands. Also, the investment will result in more accurate information coming from existing monitoring sites. Information from new sensors will be incorporated into CO drought monitoring data, and an AI model will be created to support agricultural communities and water providers. She asked the Roundtable for a letter of support and said she anticipates future requests in future grant cycles to continue expanding the program. The Roundtable board approved the request.

Colorado River District Seminar

....is scheduled for October 3, 2025 in Grand Junction.

The next Roundtable Meetings are September 22, and November 17.
