



325 E Aspen
Suite 155
Fruita CO 81521

Phone:
970-858-3663

Fax:
970-858-0210

E Mail
fruita@fruita.org

Web Site
fruita.org

City Manager's Office
970-858-3663

City Clerk/Finance
970-858-3663

Community
Development
970-858-0786

Engineering
970-858-8377

Human Resources
970-858-8373

Public Works
970-858-9558

Recreation Dept.
970-858-0360

Weekly Info Update

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
From: MIKE BENNETT, CITY MANAGER
Date: MAY 8, 2015
Re: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

Website Re-design

After thorough review of 21 proposals and narrowing down finalists for a series of presentations, we selected Aha Consulting this week as our web designer and have begun working with them to start the process prior to their site visit in early June.

Photos and Logo

We need new, fresh photos of our city and surrounding area that tell our story and provide a glimpse into our unique and funky community. The best part is we have so many talented residents, so we are going to call upon those who are willing to donate their photos for use on our new website and other city materials. It is also time to explore a new logo—one that is simple, able to be used on multiple mediums and one that reflects our culture and community. We believe the best submissions will come from our local talent. We plan to put a call out for both and will recognize those whose photos or logo we select. If we select a logo from this request, we will provide a token reward in addition to the recognition. Details will be released later this month in the City Link.

Two events with Governor Hickenlooper in Grand Junction

The AGNC meeting with Governor Hickenlooper will be on Tuesday, May 12th at the Mesa County Workforce Center (510 ½ Rd.) from 4:45 – 6:00 pm. The agenda has yet to be released and I am awaiting more info, but I do plan to attend.

Wednesday (May 13) morning at 8:15 am, the Governor will hold a signing ceremony for SB 282, Jump Start Rural Colorado. This was formerly known as Tax-Free CO. The event will be held on the plaza grounds at CMU (the grassy area west of the University Center). Here is a link to the map and the plaza is #42 on the map: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/campusinfo/documents/campusmap.pdf>. SB 282, which passed at the end of the legislature, offers companies new to the state or companies in other parts of the state that expand to a “tax friendly” zone to be exempt from paying state and local taxes for four years (with a possible 4-yr. extension) and their employees would be exempt from state income tax for five years. We will be working with GJEP and others to see how to best utilize this in our economic development toolbox.

TID BITS:

- A group of us will be splitting up beginning Monday to drop by downtown businesses and begin dialog and planning for construction of the downtown improvements planned for July and August. We are looking to establish a simple way to maintain communication and planning throughout the construction process. We also plan to get the word out about construction at the June 18th Thursday night concert.
- Once construction is underway in July on downtown, we will begin the engagement process for the gateway enhancement design project.
- Attached is a quarterly report provided by Mesa Land Trust on their activity.
- The Stormwater and Drainage Summit is scheduled for May 28 from 2:00 - 5:00 pm. The letter invite is attached. I provided this information to Council Member Bob Fuller and staff plan to attend as well. I imagine Bruce and Mel will be there also in their respective roles with the District and Authority.
- We have not been able to get a copy or link to the Chamber's updated Community Profile, but will provide it as soon as it is available.
- The City Shops project is winding down. Staff is diligently working with the contractor to finish up the final work and corrections.
- Unfortunately, the resurfaced basketball/pickle ball courts at Reed Park have many spots where the new surface is already in disrepair. The company that did the work went under. We, and others in the same boat, are working with a new company to repair the surface.
- The outdoor pool is full of water and circulating and getting ready to open around Memorial Day weekend.
- Our chip seal bid opening was this week and was a success with bids coming in under budget.
- We had a productive meeting with Parks and Wildlife this week identifying ways to mitigate building the Kokopeli section of the Riverfront Trail around hunting and bald eagle nest issues. The result was positive in finding mitigating factors and ways to partner.
- The auditors completed their work last week and the result will be a clean opinion. We really have amazing Finance staff!
- We have a meeting scheduled with Peter Booth next week to proceed with our new lease per the MOU.
- Gearing up for Mikefest next weekend!
- Ottley Ave is progressing well. The estimates we received to look into improving irrigation on Ruby Lee were much higher than expected and beyond what we can afford in the project, so we will instead extend the improvements west toward the COOP.

FRUITA IN THE NEWS:

- Great opinion piece by Mayor Buck on supporting local business. I say be a local, not a bedroom resident ☺: <http://www.gjfreepress.com/news/16211117-113/opinion-please-support-fruita-businesses-one-day-a>
- 18 Hours of Fruita TV spot: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/18-Hours-of-Fruita-brings-hundreds-of-mountain-bikers-from-around-the-state--302269651.html>
- Mountain Khakis Blog Post highlights Fruita: <http://blog.mountainkhakis.com/ambassadors/mountain-khakis-supports-music-in-western-colorado/>

- Meet Your Neighbor-Fruita Historic Preservation Board:
<http://www.gifreepress.com/news/15748367-113/meet-your-neighbor-about-fruita-historic-preservation-board>
- Fruita Monument wins award for art dept. : <http://kekbfm.com/fruita-monument-high-school-wins-award-for-art-department-video/#photogallery-1=1>
- Safe Routes to Schools features Shelledy and parents' requests for more sidewalks:
<http://www.westernslopenow.com/story/d/story/parents-want-safer-sidewalks-for-students/34116/2UwKa1A2CUCKh5ZDrF3xsQ>
- Great article on Cullen: <http://www.gifreepress.com/news/16145004-113/meet-fruitas-cullen-purser-taking-a-hands-on-approach>
- Hot Tomato Fundraiser for Youth Cycle Team:
<http://www.westernslopenow.com/story/d/story/fruita-restaurant-supports-grand-valley-youth-cycl/21076/rG646RjGGUCKz1LCSjYLFw>
- Fruita grad's indy film garners acclaim: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/fruita-grads-indy-film-garners-acclaim>
- Mesa County Assessor's Office Property Tax Outreach:
http://www.westernslopenow.com/story/d/story/mesa-county-assessors-office-property-tax-outreach/42551/X1iRpzFbsUSwTQEY_EmCEw

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **May 9th** is the third annual History Fair from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm on the third floor of the Civic Center.
- The Fruita Business toolbox monthly meeting will be Tuesday, **May 12**, at 7:30 am in the Fruita Business Incubator Center in the Civic Center and the topic will be Cyber Attack and Security presented by Ron Rehberg.
- **May 13th** is the CML Spring Outreach Meeting in the Grand Junction City Hall from 12:00 – 1:30 pm, including lunch. Please let Deb know if you would like to attend and she can get you registered.
- Back to the Fruiture with Mike the Headless Chicken Festival **May 15-16**. The schedule is:
<http://www.miketheheadlesschicken.org/schedule>.
- **May 15th** is the last day for early bird registration for the annual CML conference (June 16-19). Please let Deb and I know if you plan to attend so we can make arrangements.
- **May 21** is the next Municipalities Dinner at the Fruita Community Center at 6:00 pm with dinner catered by Colorado Canyons. General updates, Broadband and Buffer zone will be on the agenda for discussion.
- The **May** 2015 City of Fruita Meeting Calendar is available on the website at:
<http://www.fruita.org/documents/admin/mtgcal.pdf>.
- The **2015** Events Calendar is also available online at:
http://www.fruita.org/documents/rec/EVENT_CALENDAR.pdf

CC: Department Directors

Mesa County Community Separator Area Project: 2015 1st Quarter Report

Date: April 30, 2015

To: Keith Fife, Mesa County Long-Range Planning

From: Rob Bleiberg, Ilana Moir, Allison Rehor – Mesa Land Trust

Re: Mesa County Community Separator Area Project – 2015 1st Quarter Report

I. Introduction: This report covers the Mesa County Community Separator Area project from January 1st, 2015-March 31st, 2015.

II. Project Status: The PDR component of the Mesa County Community Separator Area project has been in existence now for 12 years. Forty-one properties totaling 1,432 acres have thus far been protected, with 38 of these being purchased by the buffer zone PDR program. These easements are valued at approximately \$14.82 M at a cost of \$8.02 M.

In addition, Community Separator staff completed nine PDRCC-approved projects outside the buffer in the Palisade area, totaling 292 acres. Eight of these have been purchased utilizing funds raised from GOCO and/or NRCS. The other was donated.

The project status is as follows:

2001 (2 PDRs Completed)

- **November, 2001** - After over a year of landowner outreach and education, Mesa Land Trust (MLT) and project partners closed on the project's first two PDR deals, protecting a total of 213 acres in the two buffers. The first property was a 200-acre farm in Fruita (#1 in Activity Report), the second, a 13-acre orchard in Palisade (#14).

2002 (3)

- **July, 2002** - A third project was closed, this one using MLT Legacy dollars to buy a 32-acre easement on the Colorado River in Palisade (#27).
- **December 2002** - Two more PDR transactions closed, one a 14-acre peach orchard in Palisade (#24), and the other a 44-acre horse farm in Fruita (#34).

2003 (4)

- **July, 2003** - MLT completed a sixth PDR transaction on a 39-acre Fruita farm (#39).
- **October, 2003** - The program's first easement donations occurred, one a 7-acre parcel in Palisade (#13), the other an 11-acre apple orchard in Palisade (#23).
- **December, 2003** - The program closed its first PDR transaction using FRPP funding, protecting a 40-acre hay farm in Fruita (#33).

2004 (6)

- **Summer, 2004** – Two more PDR transactions (#35, #32) were closed using FRPP, GOCO, and buffer partners funding.
- **Fall, 2004** – Completed four PDR transactions (#2, #22, #45, #47).

2005 (4)

- **May, 2005** – Another PDR transaction (#54) was closed using GOCO and buffer partners funding, protecting an 18-acre orchard property along I-70 and just outside of, but adjacent to, the Palisade buffer.
- **June, 2005** – Another easement donation occurred on a 13.5 acre farm in the Palisade buffer and along the Frontage Road (#61). The property is adjacent to three other protected buffer properties (#13, #14, and #45).

- **November, 2005** – Completed one PDR transaction on #65, 17-acre agricultural property in Palisade Buffer.
- **December, 2005** – Completed one PDR transaction on #36, 28-acre EOM property on bluff of Colorado River.

2006 (5)

- **January, 2006** – Completed one PDR transaction on #64, a 22-acre Colorado Riverfront property.
- **May, 2006** - Completed one PDR transaction on # 72, a 27-acre agricultural property contiguous to #35
- **June, 2006** – Completed one PDR transaction on the core portion of # 55.
- **October, 2006** – Completed one PDR transaction on #56, 18.65 acres in Fruita
- **December, 2006** – Completed one PDR transaction on the remaining acres in #55, river bluff and orchard property in East Orchard Mesa.

2007 (3)

- **June, 2007** – Completed one PDR transaction on # 53, a riverfront property in the Palisade buffer totaling 52 acres with both agriculture and wildlife values.
- **December 2007** – Completed two PDR transactions on #74, an 11-acre orchard in Palisade and #81, a 10-acre pasture just south of I70, both in Palisade.

2008(3)

- **May 2008** – Completed transaction on #44, a 30-acre family farm in north Fruita buffer. Property contains both prime agriculture and wildlife values.
- **December 2008** – Completed two PDR transactions, one on #87, a newer vineyard on East Orchard Mesa and another on #90, a peach orchard highly visible from I70 in Palisade.

2009(4)

- **October 2009** – Completed transaction #82, an 18.65 acre farm in the Fruita Buffer. Property fills an important gap between more than 200 acres of preserved lands.
- **December 2009** – Completed three transactions on property numbers #89, #92 and #93. Two properties are contiguous to each other in the north Fruita Buffer as well as being contiguous to 2 other conserved lands. #92 is along a major roadway in the Palisade Buffer.

2010 (3)

- **December 2010** – Completed three transactions. #103 is a 47 acre property in the Fruita Buffer. The property is located along the north shore of the Colorado River and includes an island in the River. The Riverfront Trail will run along the north boundary of the property in a CDOT right-of-way. Property #102 is a 37 acre property on East Orchard Mesa, located outside of the buffer. This vineyard and orchard is on the bluff above the River and abuts the Tillman Bishop State Wildlife Area. No local partner funding was used for this project, which was completed with GOCO and NRCS Farm & Ranch Protection Program funds. Property #100 is a 49 acre property on East Orchard Mesa, located outside of the buffer. This orchard and vineyard property is located adjacent to #98 & #99, which were under contract at the time of closing, with completion scheduled for the 1st quarter of 2011. No local partner funding was used for this project, which was completed with GOCO, NRCS Farm & Ranch Protection Program, and Gates Family Foundation funds.

2011 (5)

- **January 2011** – Completed two transactions. #98 & #99 are adjacent properties located on East Orchard Mesa outside of the Palisade Buffer. #98 is an 18 acre irrigated property currently producing wine grapes and peaches, while #99 is 12 acres and produces grapes. No local partner funding was used for these acquisitions, which were completed with grants from GOCO and NRCS Farm & Ranch Protection Program grants.
- **December 2011-** Completed three transactions. Properties #74a, #107(aka #21), #73 are all located within the Palisade Buffer. #74a is a 14 acre peach orchard situated between two existing conservation easements, located near the town of Palisade. Just down the road from #74 is #73 which is a newly planted peach orchard. These two are visible from I-70. On East Orchard Mesa, the 16 acre #107 (aka #21) is a peach orchard property and wildlife property. Grants from GOCO, NRCS Farm & Ranch Protection Program, Gate Family foundation and the Buffer partners were used to fund these three transactions.

2012 (4)

- **March 2012** – Completed two transactions. #106 & #108 both properties located on East Orchard Mesa outside of the Palisade Buffer. #106 is a 26 acre irrigated peach orchard, while #108 is 14 acre irrigated vineyard. No local partner funding was used for these acquisitions, which were completed with grants from GOCO and NRCS Farm & Ranch Protection Program, Goodwin Foundation and Gates Family Foundation grants.
- **December 2012-** Completed two transactions. #19 & #114 both properties located on East Orchard Mesa in the Palisade Buffer. #114 is a 10.2 acre irrigated peach orchard, while #19 is 35 acre property which includes a 9 acre irrigated vineyard and over 20 acres of wetlands and riparian habitat along the Colorado River. The 2012 Local Partner funding was used on these 2 projects and was matched by grants from GOCO and NRCS Farm & Ranch Protection Program.

2013 (1)

- **April 2013** – Completed one transaction. # 113 is located just outside of the Palisade Buffer near two other conserved properties, along I-70. The property contains irrigated peach orchards. No local partner funding was used for this acquisition, which was completed with grants from GOCO and NRCS Farm & Ranch Protection Program.

2014 (1)

- **April 2014-** Completed one transaction. # 123 is located just outside of the Palisade Buffer on East Orchard Mesa near other working farms. The property contains irrigated peach orchards, an older pear orchard, a small wash and some recently replanted peach trees. The 2013 Local Partner funding was used on this project and was matched by a grant from NRCS Farm & Ranch Protection Program.

III. 1st Quarter 2015 Overview:

- Continued working with Projects #126 and #127.
 - #126 lies east of Palisade in some of the most productive ground in the entire East Valley
 - #127 lies partially in the Buffer and is fully planted in peach orchards
 - Negotiated conservation easement documents with both landowners as well as managed expectations

- Ordered and reviewed appropriate due diligence for each project. After this due diligence was sent off to various funders for review
- Kept the projects within budgets
- Staff met with three landowners in and around the Buffer areas to describe conservation easements.
- Wrote and submitted an application for funding to Great Outdoors Colorado for a new project in the Palisade area. This included ordering appropriate due diligence, writing the application, working with partners to secure letters of support, and building an appropriate budget.
- Continued work on focused outreach plan which would include outreach to landowners, FFA, community colleges, etc.
- Attended Western Colorado Horticultural Society show in early January to network with East Valley farmers and others in the industry.
- Met with DOLA staff to explore opportunities for support of the Buffer program.

IV. Summary of Progress: In October, 2000, the PDR Review Committee helped kick off the buffer zone project by authorizing the first of the one hundred and twenty five PDR candidates approved thus far. An overview of the PDRRC's landowner approvals is as follows:

- October, 2000 (5) - #1, #2, #3, #9, #10.
- January, 2001 (1) - #14.
- September, 2001 (2) - #24, #27.
- August, 2002 (4) - #8, #32, #34, #39,
- November, 2002 (4) - #19, #33, #35, #36.
- January, 2003 (3) - #22, #45, #48
- May, 2003 (1) - #47
- July, 2003 (1) - #21
- September, 2003 (1) - #54
- November, 2003 (1) - #56
- February, 2004 (3) - #28, #38, #43
- April, 2004 (1) - #55 (via email)
- Feb, 2005 (2)- #64, #65
- June, 2005 (1) - #72
- January 2006 (5) #53, #73, #74, #75, #76
- April 2006 (2) #79, #80
- August 2006 (1) #81
- March 2007 (2) #8, #44
- June 2007 (1) #16
- September 2007 (4) # 74 and #81 (without connecting properties), #82, #85
- December 2007 (1) #87
- March 2008 (2) #88, #89
- June 2008 (1) #90 (via email)
- July 2008 (3) #86, #92
- December 2008 (2) #93, #94
- March 2009 (2) #95, #96
- June 2009 (1) #97
- September 2009 (4) #98, #99, #100, #101

- December 2009 – no new properties
- March 2010 (4)- # 103, #104, #105, #106
- December 2010 (2) - #107, #108
- January 2011 (2) - #98, #99
- April 2011 (1) - #109
- December 2011 (4) - #110, #111, #112, #113
- April 2012 (4)- #114, #115, #116, #117
- September 2012 (1)- #118
- November 2012 (6)- #119, #120, #121, #122, #123, #124
- March 2013 (1)- #125
- February 2014 (2)- #126, #127
- November 2014 (2)- #128, #129

V. Review of voluntary land conservation tools explored with landowners: The Land Trust continues to speak to landowners about the benefits of conservation easements and other conservation tools as appropriate such as deed restrictions, and planned giving. The contractor has been doing outreach to and research with landowners with current conservation easements with the goal of assessing and, if appropriate, fine-tuning conservation easement language.

VI. Total hours spent on the project by Land Trust: Three different MLT staff completed 298 hours of work on the Buffer Program this quarter. The lion's share of this total was completed by the Land Protection Specialist and the Executive Director.

VII. Review of training/education and its utility to the program:

The Land Trust continues to work with landowners who have participated in earlier trainings. The Contractor continues to respond to landowners' interest from the Buffer mailing sent out earlier in the year.

VIII. Work planned for next quarter:

- Continue easement negotiations for projects #126 and #127. Continue work on these projects including ordering and reviewing additional due diligence, working with funding partners to satisfy all requirements, managing landowners' input and expectations.
- Promote buffer program and educate landowners about conservation easements through individual and small group meetings, especially focusing in the Fruita Buffer, including FFA and local community college.
- Coordinate a PDRRC meeting to bring parties up to date on projects and approve new projects
- Completed 2015 NRCS application for funding for project in the Palisade area

IX. Identification of problems: None

X. Suggested resolution to problems: N/A



SCOTT McINNIS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
District 2
970-244-1604

P.O. Box 20,000 544 Rood Avenue Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5010 mcboecc@mesacounty.us Fax (970) 244-1639

May 5, 2015

Dear Elected Representatives and Associated Staff;

I'd like to cordially invite you to attend a Stormwater and Drainage Summit meeting on May 28, 2015 from 2pm to 5pm. The community is at a critical stage of a needed and time sensitive process to find a workable solution for stormwater and drainage in the Grand Valley.

I tasked a group of technical staff to create a White Paper that explores how all stormwater and drainage in the Greater Grand Valley could be handled by one organization. The purpose of the Summit meeting is to hear a presentation from staff on the White Paper. This White Paper explores the idea of creating a new Greater Grand Valley Drainage Organization and the services this new organization would need to provide.

In 2006 the City of Centennial and Arapahoe County created a Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) to handle similar issues that Mesa County is experiencing. SEMSWA has been very successful with their program and will give a short presentation on their success. A long term Board member from SEMSWA will also be in attendance to give the perspective from a Board Member.

Hopefully, everyone that is interested in drainage and stormwater will be in attendance to hear the presentation by staff, the success story, and discuss the next steps. I am hopeful that the outcome of this meeting will start us on the path to the creation of a New Greater Grand Valley Drainage Organization.

When: May 28, 2015 from 2pm to 5pm

**Where: Mesa County Central Service Building
200 S Spruce, Grand Junction
Conference Room 40**

*Use the West Entrance marked 'Elections'
Turn left to the conference room*

Please RSVP to: Gina Schlagel at 244-1860.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott McInnis".

Scott McInnis
Mesa County Board of Commissioners
District 2