



Chaffee County Commissioners Meeting
February 17, 2026

These minutes have been taken remotely via Zoom. Some County staff, representatives from other governments and government agencies, and others from the public may attend, including participating in the public hearing portion of the meeting, remotely via Zoom.

A. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on February 17, 2026, at the Chaffee County Public Safety Complex, 200 Steele Dr., Buena Vista. Board members present were Chair Gina Lucrezi, Commissioner Dave Armstrong, and Commissioner P. T. Wood.

Others present in person were County Administrator Beth Helmke, Director of Finance Dan Short, Interim County Attorney Karl Hanlon, Community Planning & Natural Resources Director Miles Cottom, Planning Manager Garry Baker, and Planner Nick Gomer.

Others present remotely were EMS Director Josh Hadley (Item F.2. only), Sheriff Andy Rohrich (Items C.2. and F.2. only), Planner Brandon Wolff, and Deputy County Clerks Kit Kuester, Julia Rivera, and Barbara Tidd.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Lucrezi called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Approve Agenda

Commissioner Wood asked that Consent Agenda item C.2. be moved to the Regular Agenda as item F.1.

Commissioner Wood moved to approve the Agenda as amended moving Consent Agenda item C.2. to the Regular Agenda as item F.1. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review Public Meeting List

The Board reviewed the public meeting list.

4. Public Comment

Chair Lucrezi asked for public comment. She stated that you'll have up to 3 minutes to speak, and please give your name and address for the record.

Public Comment was given by:

Jim Thompson, 17065 County Rd. 338, Buena Vista.

Suzy Kelly, 25887 County Rd. 319, Buena Vista.

B. Minutes for Approval

1. Consider for Approval the Minutes of the February 3, 2026 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the CORRECTED minutes of the February 3, 2026 Commissioners' regular meeting. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Wood commented on Consent Agenda item C.11.

Commissioner Lucrezi commented on Consent Agenda item C.10.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended having removed Consent Agenda item C.2. to Regular Agenda item F.1. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Pay the Bills
3. Acknowledge the Sheriff's Office Monthly Report for January 2026
4. Ratify the Veteran's Service Officer's Monthly Report for January 2026
5. Consider release of lot sales restriction for lots 1-18 of the Cattle Creek Ranch Major Subdivision
6. Approve Resolution 2026-08 Authorizing Treasurer to Deposit and Invest Public Funds
7. Acknowledge the Treasurer's Monthly Report for January 2026
8. Ratify contract with Koy Dingboom Oates, LLC for provision of special counsel services for the Chaffee County Department of Human Services - Helmke
9. Approve final 2026 budgets for Rec Rangers, Rec Adopters, and Porta-Potties Programs (to be paid from Lodging Tax Reallocation Fund Balance)
10. Approval of Rec Ranger Vehicle Use Agreement for 2026
11. Consider amended Commissioner Letter regarding Unfunded Mandates to the State of Colorado and Legislators, as discussed at February 3 BOCC meeting - Commissioners

D. Convene as the Chaffee County Board of Adjustment

At 9:19 a.m., the Board recessed as the Board of Commissioners and convened as the Board of Adjustment.

1. **Consent Agenda**

Approve Board of Adjustment Resolution 2026-02 regarding the Baumgardner Appeal of Administrative Decision

Chair Lucrezi addressed the Board to consider draft **RESOLUTION 2026-02 REGARDING THE BAUMGARDNER APPEAL OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION ON ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE.**

Commissioner Wood moved to approve **RESOLUTION 2026-02 REGARDING THE BAUMGARDNER APPEAL OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION ON ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE.** Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion carried unanimously.

At 9:21 a.m., the Board adjourned as the Board of Adjustment and reconvened as the Board of Commissioners.

E. **Contracts/Grant Consideration**

There were none.

F. **Regular Agenda Items**

- C. 2. Ratification of Second Reading to adopt County Ordinance 2025-03 Restricting Open Fires and Open Burning in Unincorporated areas of Chaffee County and Providing Penalties for Violation of Such Ordinance

Chair Lucrezi addressed the Board to consider Ratification of Second Reading to Adopt **County Ordinance 2025-03 Restricting Open Fires and Open Burning in Unincorporated areas of Chaffee County and Providing Penalties for Violation of Such Ordinance.**

Commissioner Wood asked how this may affect burn barrels.

Sheriff Rohrich responded to Commissioner Wood's question.

Commissioner Wood moved to approve Ratification of Second Reading to Adopt **County Ordinance 2025-03 Restricting Open Fires and Open Burning in Unincorporated areas of Chaffee County and Providing Penalties for Violation of Such Ordinance.** Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Presentation from Fehr & Peers on the Chaffee County Safer Roadways for All Safety Action Plan Project

Director Cottom introduced Patrick Picard with Fehr & Peers who addressed the Board to present regarding the Chaffee County Safer Roadways for All Safety Action Plan Project.

Picard and Manager Baker responded to Commissioners' comments and questions.

No formal action was taken.

2. **Public Hearing to Consider a Multi-Year Special Event Permit Application**

Name of Event: September Concert at the Meadows

Applicant: Meadow Creek Music Community Fund, a Colorado Nonprofit Corporation, represented by Michael Sampliner

Location of Event: 14998 CR 350, Buena Vista

Dates of Event: September 17-21, 2026, and similar timeframe each September in subsequent years

Maximum # of Attendees: 11,500, plus 600 staff

Planner: Nick Gomer/ 719-530-5571 / ngomer@chaffeecounty.org

Planner Gomer addressed the Board to open the public hearing to consider a Multi-Year Special Event: September Concert at the Meadows to be located at 14998 County Rd. 350, Buena Vista, for Applicant Meadow Creek Music Community Fund.

Michael Sampliner for Applicant addressed the Board.

Chair Lucrezi asked for comments from referral agencies.

Sheriff Rohrich addressed the Board and responded to Commissioners' questions.

Buena Vista Special Events Coordinator Annie Carlson addressed the Board.

Sampliner spoke further.

The public comment portion of the hearing opened at 10:05 a.m.

Public comments were given by:

Josh Chance, 29145 County Rd. 331, Buena Vista.

The public comment portion of the hearing paused at 10:09 a.m.

Manager Hadley addressed the Board.

Sampliner spoke further.

The public comment portion of the hearing re-opened at 10:14 a.m.

There was no additional public comment and the public comment portion of the hearing closed.

Manager Hadley responded to Commissioners' question.

Planner Gomer and Sampliner responded to Commissioners' questions.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Wood moved to approve the Application with the following modifications to the 14

Findings that are included in the Staff Report:

- 1) Under 3., add that the Sheriff's Office, Road & Bridge, Public Health Department, Town of Buena Vista, Emergency Medical Services, and Chaffee County Fire Protection District all have reviewed the Application and accepted;
- 2) A request or Finding to be built into the Resolution to see a report-out on those neighborhood meetings and what was being said; and
- 3) direct staff to prepare a Resolution for Commissioners' consideration.

Commissioner Lucrezi offered an amendment to the above motion to add the traffic plan specifically for the Town of Buena Vista.

Commissioner Armstrong offered an amendment to cap attendees at 10,000 for this first year for both events and see how well these plans play out for these different entities and then go from there.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion with the above-stated amendment offered by Commissioner Lucrezi only. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Discuss and consider proposed Voluntary Flow Management Program Agreement (2026-2031) - Community Planning & Natural Resources Department; Commissioner Lucrezi

Commissioner Lucrezi addressed the Board to open discussion and consider the proposed Voluntary Flow Management Program Agreement (2026-2031).

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Wood moved to approve the proposed Voluntary Flow Management Program Agreement (2026-2031). Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Designate the 8 Days in June under the County Recreational In-Channel Diversion (RICD) when Water Rights for the RICD Shall Be 1800 cfs and Discuss and Finalize the 30-day Flow Recommendations for the RICD - Miles Cottom

Director Cottom addressed the Board to designate the 8 Days in June under the County Recreational In-Channel Diversion (RICD) when Water Rights for the RICD shall be 1800 cfs and to discuss and finalize the 30-day Flow Recommendations for the RICD.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to generate letters to the Water Division 2 Engineer as proposed in the packet to designate June 16, 2026 through June 23, 2026 as the eight (8) days in June under the County Recreational In-Channel Diversion (RICD) when water rights for the RICD shall be 1800 cfs and designate May 22, 2026 through June 20, 2026 as the 30-day high flow period under the RICD, which is limited to 1400 cfs.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Discuss future and governance for Chaffee Heritage Area Advisory Board - Miles Cottom

Director Cottom addressed the Board to open discussion as to the future and governance of the Chaffee Heritage Area Advisory Board.

Discussion ensued.

Director Cottom stated that a proposed Resolution will be presented at the next meeting, likely on the Consent Agenda.

By consensus, the Board agreed.

No formal action was taken.

6. Discuss future and governance of Transportation Advisory Board - Miles Cottom

Director Cottom addressed the Board to consider an amendment to and restatement of the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Governance Resolution (Chaffee Resolution 2008-37).

Director Cottom responded to Commissioners' questions and comments.

No formal action was taken.

7. Discuss future and governance for Common Ground Citizen's Advisory Committee - Miles Cottom

Director Cottom addressed the Board to open discussion regarding the future and governance for Common Ground Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Discussion ensued.

Director Cottom said that a resolution regarding this will be brought to the next meeting.

Director Cottom responded to Commissioner's questions and comments.

No formal action was taken.

8. Discuss policy for amendment to Common Ground grant award agreements - Community Planning and Natural Resources

Director Cottom addressed the Board to open discussion regarding a policy for amendment to the Common Ground grant award agreements.

Discussion ensued during which Director Cottom spoke.

No formal action was taken.

9. Consider long-range Chaffee County Common Ground Citizen Advisory Committee strategy - Miles Cottom

Director Cottom addressed the Board to consider the long-range Chaffee County Common Ground Citizen Advisory Committee strategy.

Director Short spoke.

Discussion ensued during which Director Cottom spoke.

Suzy Kelly commented.

Commissioners concurred that they agree with the direction as proposed.

No formal action was taken.

10. Set interviews with Chaffee County Planning Commission candidates and Chaffee County Common Ground Citizen Advisory Committee candidates - Miles Cottom

Director Cottom addressed the Board to set interviews with the Chaffee County Planning Commission candidates and Chaffee County Common Ground Citizen Advisory Committee candidates.

Director Cottom responded to Commissioner's questions and comments.

Discussion ensued during which Director Cottom spoke.

By consensus, Commissioners decided on early March for the interviews.

No formal action was taken.

11. Consider creation of Governance Resolution for Weed Advisory Board - Beth Helmke

Administrator Helmke addressed the Board to consider creation of a Governance Resolution for the Weed Advisory Board.

Discussion ensued during which Administrator Helmke spoke.

No formal action was taken.

G. Commissioners Comments

H. Adjourn

There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Mitchell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Lori Mitchell, County Clerk