

**TOWN OF GRAND LAKE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

RESOLUTION NO. 48-2026

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A WATER CONSERVATION POLICY FOR THE TOWN
OF GRAND LAKE, COLORADO,
AFFIRMING THE TOWN'S ROLE AS A HEADWATERS COMMUNITY AND STEWARD OF
THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER
WATERSHED, AND DIRECTING IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER CONSERVATION
MEASURES**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Grand Lake, Colorado (“the Board”), pursuant to Colorado statute, is vested with the authority to administer the affairs of the Town of Grand Lake (“the Town”) and to adopt policies in the public interest; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Grand Lake is situated at the headwaters of the Colorado River system, with Grand Lake and Shadow Mountain Reservoir serving as integral components of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which delivers water to more than one million Front Range residents and supports agricultural operations throughout northeastern Colorado; and,

WHEREAS, the Colorado River and its tributaries collectively supply water to over 40 million people in seven U.S. states and the Republic of Mexico, and the long-term health of this shared resource is of vital importance to the region, the nation, and the communities downstream of Grand Lake; and,

WHEREAS, documented long-term trends including prolonged drought, reduced snowpack, and increased temperatures in the Colorado River Basin have placed mounting pressure on available water supplies, making proactive municipal water conservation an essential component of responsible governance in the upper watershed; and,

WHEREAS, the Town is surrounded by Rocky Mountain National Park, the Arapaho National Recreation Area, and Roosevelt National Forest, and the health of these protected lands and their riparian ecosystems is directly tied to sound stewardship of the water resources within and flowing through the Town; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes that the Town’s identity as a gateway community to world-class protected public lands carries with it a responsibility to manage the Town’s natural resources — including its water — in a manner consistent with the long-term ecological health of the surrounding parks and forests; and,

WHEREAS, the Town has demonstrated a consistent commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship through initiatives including the establishment of a Pay As You Throw trash facility and the recent approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Grand Resource & Recycle Coalition for the operation of a community recycling drop-off station; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that establishing a formal Water Conservation Policy is consistent with the Town’s values, advances the Town’s role as a conservation leader among Colorado mountain communities, and serves the best interests of the Town’s residents, businesses, visitors, and the broader Colorado River Basin community; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the adoption of a Water Conservation Policy is a necessary and appropriate exercise of the Town’s authority, and that the measures contemplated herein are reasonable, equitable, and in the public interest;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF GRAND LAKE, COLORADO THAT:

1. The Board of Trustees hereby adopts and establishes a Water Conservation Policy for the Town of Grand Lake, affirming the Town's commitment to the responsible stewardship of water as a finite and shared resource originating at the headwaters of the Colorado River.
2. The Town's Water Conservation Policy shall be guided by the following principles: (a) recognition of Grand Lake's unique position as a headwaters community within the Colorado River Basin; (b) commitment to the ecological health of Rocky Mountain National Park, the Arapaho National Recreation Area, Roosevelt National Forest, and the riparian systems they encompass; (c) proactive conservation as a means of sustaining water availability for current and future residents, businesses, and visitors; and (d) leadership among Colorado mountain municipalities in adopting and modeling effective water stewardship practices.
3. The Town Manager is directed to develop and present to the Board of Trustees, within ninety (90) days of adoption of this Resolution, a Water Conservation Implementation Plan that shall include, at a minimum: (a) a voluntary conservation and public education program; (b) seasonal outdoor irrigation guidelines; (c) a tiered drought response framework with defined trigger thresholds and mandatory conservation stages; (d) a review of water system infrastructure for loss detection and efficiency improvements; (e) water efficiency standards applicable to new construction and major renovation within the Town; and (f) an annual public water use report to be presented to the Board of Trustees.
4. The Town Manager is authorized to pursue state and federal grant opportunities, cooperative agreements with Grand County, the Colorado River District, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, and other entities to support the implementation of water conservation measures and related infrastructure investments.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall be incorporated into the Town's planning, budgeting, and policy development processes as a statement of the Board's priorities and values with respect to water resource stewardship.

DULY MOVED, SECONDED, AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF GRAND LAKE THIS 8TH DAY OF JUNE 2026.

Votes Approving:
Votes Opposing:
Votes Abstaining:
Absent:

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Alayna Carrell, Town Clerk

Christina Bergquist, Mayor