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Memorandum

To: Mayor & Council
From: David Reynolds
Re: Agenda Item: Colorado Parks and Wildlife Zebra Mussel Update
Date: 06/02/2026

Purpose:

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide Town Council with an informational update regarding the growing concern of invasive zebra and quagga mussels to Colorado waterways and reservoirs. A representative from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) will provide a presentation on the current status of these aquatic nuisance species in the region, associated environmental and infrastructure risks, and ongoing preventative efforts.

Originally native to Eastern Europe, zebra and quagga mussels were introduced into North America through ballast water discharged from ocean-going ships and have since spread rapidly across the United States, often through contaminated boats, trailers, and equipment. The first western infestation was discovered in Lake Mead in 2007, and quagga mussels are particularly concerning for Colorado due to their ability to survive in cold-water environments.

These invasive species pose serious risks to reservoirs, municipal water systems, irrigation infrastructure, recreation areas, and native aquatic ecosystems. The CPW representative will discuss current monitoring efforts, inspection and decontamination programs, and recommended best practices to help prevent the spread of invasive mussels throughout Colorado waterways.