



Parks & Open Space

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BOCC BUSINESS MEETING

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Sandy Duff, Senior Land Officer
FOR: BOCC Business Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 28, 2023
RE: Shea Water Acquisition
MEMO DATE: February 23, 2023

For much longer than Parks & Open Space's history of stewarding open space, the land in this community has been important to the diverse Indigenous communities that continue to live here. We are partnering with Indigenous people to make meaningful changes to how we do our work that include Indigenous people, incorporate their perspectives, and honor their land stewardship legacy. Parks & Open Space operates within modern legal constructs of land ownership to steward Boulder County open space and accomplish these efforts on behalf of our community.

Summary of Request

Parks & Open Space staff is proposing to acquire 30.996 shares of Goodhue Ditch & Reservoir Company (Goodhue) and 1 share of Davidson Ditch and Reservoir Company (Davidson) from Michael Shea for \$24,896.80.

Background Information

Michael Shea used to own an agricultural farm known as Shea Ranch, located south of South Boulder Road. He sold that farm a few years ago and sold some of his water shares in the Goodhue to the new owners. Michael also kept a few other shares and he would now like to sell them to Boulder County.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval. Mr. Shea understands the importance of water in our county, and he is more than happy to sell the water to the County. The price offered is a very fair price for both the Goodhue Ditch & Reservoir Company (30.996 shares at \$800/share) and the Davidson Ditch and Reservoir Company (1 share at \$100).

Parks & Open Space's Agricultural Resources Division staff consider the acquisition of both Goodhue and Davidson water to be some of the department's highest priorities.

These two ditch companies are two of only a very few water rights that can deliver irrigation water to the southeast corner of the county. The acquisition of these water rights would benefit irrigation on a number of open space properties, most particularly Goodhue can be used at Rock Creek Farm, Trillium, Boulder County Land Ventures, Warembourg, Admor, Mayhoffer Farm, Mayhoffer 15, Esmail and Waneka open spaces. Davidson water can benefit Harney Lastoka, Mayhoffer Farm, Ahlstrand, Beacham Roberts and Burtness open spaces.

BOCC Action Requested

Approve the request as described above and by staff at the business meeting.

