

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 29.f**

Applicant: Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative

Water Activity Name: Educating Today to Balance Tomorrow's Water Supply Needs

Water Activity Purpose: Nonstructural Water Activity

County: Saguache, Rio Grande, Conejos, Archuleta, Alamosa, Hinsdale, Costilla

Drainage Basin: Rio Grande

Water Source: N/A

Amount Requested: \$25,000 (Rio Grande Account)

Matching Funds: \$163,900 (656%)

Staff Recommendation
The proposed project will assist the Rio Grande Roundtable in sharing its consumptive & nonconsumptive needs with the public. In addition it will help solicit public participation. Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Rio Grande Basin Account to help complete this project.

Water Activity Summary:

The applicant intends to help residents, youth, landowners, and water stakeholders of the Rio Grande basin to better understand the current demands and future needs of the water in the Rio Grande Basin over a two year period. This is part of a broader scope of general water education throughout the valley. It will encourage informed and rational discussions and decision-making regarding local water usage.

As stated in the scope of work includes the following objectives (inclusive of all water education activities):

- 1) Provide in-service water education training for 60 teachers;
- 2) Assess student and teacher mastery of resource conservation in the real world;
- 3) Assist approximately 87 students annually in the completion of their projects for the 2010 San Luis Valley Regional, State, and International Science Fairs;
- 4) Conduct the 5th annual summer "Water Festival" that attracts 300 students;
- 5) Hold Summer Camps open to valley youth ages 6-13 years old, giving children experience in the outdoors, with the Soil, Water and Range portions of the June Beaver Creek Youth Camp;
- 6) Initiate a series of landowner workshops with learning experiences for small landowners centered on conservation planning. Topics include water management, cover crops, and water tolerant landscaping. Develop an action plan for a community series. This will be completed in each of the conservation districts in the San Luis Valley, including presentations on the role and activities of the Rio Grande Roundtable, the water issues confronting the basin, and related topics that will be available for presentation to the broader community. This will be accomplished by presentations to civic organizations, students at Adams State College, and Community meetings. The presentations will be designed so that they can be used by other members of the Rio Grande Basin's Water Community;
- 7) Provide Conservation Environmental Representation by serving as the conservation/environmental education voice at conferences, policy meetings, and local/state government planning session;.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application/project meets all four Threshold Criteria. No Statewide funds are being requested, therefore the evaluation criteria does not apply.

Funding Overview

Grant funding in the amount of \$25,000 is being requested from the Rio Grande Basin Account. Match includes \$163,900 (656%).

Discussion:

HB 05-1177 (37-75-104) indicates that each basin roundtable has powers and responsibilities that include the following:

“(c) Basin roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs.

“(d) Serve as a forum for education and debate regarding methods for meeting water supply needs; and

“(e) As needed, establish roundtable subcommittees or other mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and resolution of issues and conflicts within the basin.”

These items are a focus of this application. The educational activities will be used to help the Roundtable to encourage the stakeholders to better educate themselves about general water issues, better understand the work of the Roundtable; familiarize themselves with other projects and studies, provided informed input, and become involved.

Issues/Additional Needs: N/A

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Rio Grande Basin Account for the implementation of Rio Grande public education, outreach, and participation activities.

All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation. This information will in turn be made widely available to Basin Roundtables and the general public and will help promote the development of a common technical platform.

In accordance with the revised WSRA Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements. The specific requirements are provided below.

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the scope of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

Engineering: All engineering work (as defined in the Engineers Practice Act (§12-25-102(10) C.R.S.)) performed under this grant shall be performed or certified by a professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.