

**Water Supply Reserve Account
Grant and Loan Program Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 20.a, Jan. 2012 Board Meeting**

Applicant: Colorado Mesa University for the Water Center at Colorado Mesa University

Water Activity Name: Colorado Basin Roundtable Education Program

Water Activity Purpose: Nonstructural Water Activity

Counties: Summit, Grand, Eagle, Pitkin, Garfield, Mesa

Drainage Basin: Colorado Mainstem

Water Source: N/A

Amount Requested: \$29,700 (Colorado Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$114,320 (385% of requested funds)

Staff Recommendation

The proposed grant will assist the Colorado Roundtable in sharing its consumptive & nonconsumptive needs and projects to meet those needs with the public over two years' time. Staff recommends approval of up to \$29,700 from the Colorado Basin Account.

Water Activity Summary:

The applicant seeks to implement Colorado Education Action Plan activities in 2012 and 2013.

The Program will reach out to media, local government and civic organizations across Colorado's West Slope in order to raise awareness and generate feedback about the Roundtable's needs assessments, studies and projects, as well as the Roundtable's role in statewide water planning. Outreach activities will include media commentaries, presentations to civic and government groups, an e-newsletter, website and social media.

The Water Center at Colorado Mesa University will coordinate this program with active participation and support from the members of the Colorado Basin Roundtable Education Committee and Basin Roundtable Members. This program will result in broader public participation in policy debates about water and better public understanding of the trade-offs inherent in making water policy decisions and the activities and discussions of the Basin Roundtables and IBCC in these decisions.

The primary tasks will be to:

1. Coordinate media stories, with a goal of 100 published media accounts in two years on Basin Roundtable activities and the trade-offs involved in different approaches to meeting the state's water supply needs.
2. Coordinate civic outreach within the basin, conducting presentations and listening sessions with 60-100 civic groups over two years and maintaining contact through an electronic newsletter.
3. Organize water seminars and classes.
4. Coordinate presentations with other basin roundtables.
5. Evaluation.
6. Reporting and Final Deliverable.

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.

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 stakeholders to better educate themselves about the basin’s consumptive and nonconsumptive needs and proposed solutions to meet those needs, better understand the work of the Roundtable; familiarize themselves with other projects and studies, provide informed input, and become involved.

Staff worked closely with the applicant, who has found match dollars to pay for tasks not directly associated with (c), (d), and (e) above. The applicant has articulated how each task seeking WSRA funding relates to the Basin Roundtable activities, and has outlined discreet deliverables for each task.

Staff also worked closely with the applicant and those involved in the broader Water 2012 efforts to ensure the tasks proposed in this grant fit within and do not duplicate the activities in the Colorado Water 2012 Strategic Framework. The Basin Roundtables section of this Framework is attached.

Issues/Additional Needs: No Issues or Additional Needs were identified

Reporting Requirements:

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.