

**Water Supply Reserve Account Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 19.c, March. 2012 Board Meeting**

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

Water Activity Name: Gunnison Basin Roundtable Education Program

Water Activity Purpose: Nonstructural Water Activity

Counties: Saguache, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Ouray, Montrose, Delta, Mesa

Drainage Basin: Gunnison

Water Source: N/A

Amount Requested: \$19,750 (Colorado Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$47,050 (238% of requested funds)

Staff Recommendation

The proposed grant will assist the Gunnison 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 \$19,750 from the Colorado Basin Account.

Water Activity Summary:

The applicant seeks to implement Gunnison 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 Gunnison 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 objectives are to:

1. Develop and distribute at least 20,000 copies of a new overview publication on the Gunnison Basin: *Gunnison Basin Water in the 21st Century*.
2. Significantly increase media coverage of Basin Roundtable activities and the trade-offs involved in different approaches to meeting the state's water supply needs.
3. Enlarge and diversify the community of people within the Gunnison Basin who follow and comment on Basin Roundtable activities and statewide water planning efforts.
4. Increase public understanding of the trade-offs involved in different approaches to meeting the state's water supply needs.
5. Continuously improve outreach activities through rigorous, ongoing evaluation.
6. Maintain accountability through completing all required reporting tasks.

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.

The applicant 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. The Gunnison Basin Roundtable’s 2012 Education Action Plan, is attached.

The applicant and those involved in the broader Water 2012 efforts have indicated that 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.

Gunnison Basin Roundtable

2012 EDUCATION ACTION PLAN*

(Revised in February 2012 with new “Colorado Water 2012” activities)

Introduction

House Bill 05-1177 creating Colorado’s Roundtables and the Interbasin Compact Committee decreed that each Roundtable would “serve as a forum for education and debate regarding methods for meeting water supply needs” (37-75-104(2)(d)). The Public Education, Participation and Outreach Working Group of the IBCC has asked each Roundtable to establish an Education Committee, charged to develop an “Education Action Plan” describing planned activities for a) informing and educating the Roundtable members, and b) informing and educating the general public about regional water issues and the Roundtables efforts to address them. This is the Gunnison Basin Education Action Plan for 2011.

Submitted for Roundtable consideration by the Education Action Committee:

George Sibley, Ed. Chair (At large); Hannah Holm (CMU Water Center); Austin Keiser (Grand Mesa); Denis Reich (CSU Extension Liaison); Gary Shellhorn (U.S. Forest Service Liaison); Michelle Pierce, Roundtable Chair (Hinsdale Municipal).

Goals (of equal priority)

- To provide educational resources to the members of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable that will help enable them in their decision-making processes.
- To provide educational resources to the general populace of the Gunnison Basin region that will increase their awareness of their water resources, the demands on those resources, the heritage of use of those resources, and the state and regional environment surrounding those resources and impacting their use.
- When possible and desirable, to create single programs that fulfill both of those goals.

To meet the first goal of informing the Gunnison Basin Roundtable members:

- a) All or part of the Education Action for each Roundtable meeting will be “situational”: some background information, contextual connections, or analysis strategies will be prepared for one or more items to be considered at that meeting. These Action items will evolve with each agenda.
- b) Special Education Actions will be prepared around major topics of concern or interest, as established by surveys like the one conducted by the CFWE/IBCC year before last. There will be, for one example, a major Education Action on Water Quality in 2011 (see item (b) below).
- c) When possible, the Gunnison Basin Roundtable Education Committee will collaborate with other Roundtable Education Committees to provide background and contextual information and materials when or if the Roundtables decide to hold joint meetings, like the Gunnison and Arkansas Basin Roundtables did in the summer of 2010.
- d) The organizations and groups represented on the Roundtable will be invited to give short presentations about their organization to the larger group.

* This budget is for the “Colorado Water 2012” calendar year, which includes the second half of Colorado’s Fiscal Year 2012 and the first half of FY 2013.

To meet the second goal of providing educational resources to the general Basin populace:

- a) The Roundtable Education Committee will collaborate with the Colorado River District, the Colorado Mesa University Water Center, the Water Program at Western State College, the Bureau of Reclamation, and appropriate Water Conservancy Districts and other local groups, to present historic programs in conjunction with the statewide “Colorado Water 2012” public education program. (This will be done in lieu of the single-event “State of the River” program in collaboration with the River District, although elements of that program will be incorporated into the 2012 programs.)
 - 1) *June 4, 2012: Commemoration/Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Commencement of Construction on the “Curecanti Unit” (now the Wayne N. Aspinall Unit) of the Colorado River Storage Project.* This will involve events held in conjunction with the regular meeting of the GB Roundtable, which will be held in Gunnison. Events will include a morning tour of Blue Mesa Dam, a Historical Program and a Public Reception, prior to the 4:00 meeting. The historical program will feature a slide presentation by Vern Jetley, who worked for the Bureau of Reclamation as a photographer during the 1960s. Collaborators will be the River District, the Upper Gunnison River District and the Western State College Water Program. (Note: The schedule is negotiable, and should be discussed by the GBRT.)
 - 2) *August 6, 2012: Commemoration/Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Completion of Construction and First “Fill and Spill” of the “Paonia Unit” (Dam and Reservoir) of the Colorado River Storage Project.* This will involve events held in conjunction with the regular meeting of the GB Roundtable, which will be held probably in Hotchkiss (near Rogers Mesa, principal destination of Paonia Reservoir water). It will include a historical presentation with slides/powerpoint about the Paonia Project, and the Fire Mountain Canal for which it was built to provide supplemental water. It may also include a tour of the dam and accessible portions of the canal. Since this overlaps with the Delta County Fair in Hotchkiss, there may be collaboration with the Fair Board, as well as the Fire Mountain Canal Company and North Fork Water Conservancy District. (Note: The schedule is negotiable, and should be discussed by the GBRT.)
- b) The Education Committee will work with the Colorado Mesa University Water Center (Hannah Holm, Co-coordinator) on media presentations to bring water information to the public media. To the greatest extent possible, these articles and short essays will be written by Roundtable members.
- c) The Education Committee will prepare a 24-page pamphlet, titled “The Gunnison River in the 21st Century.” This pamphlet will be inserted in the six Gunnison Basin newspapers in June 2012. See Attachment A for a more detailed description and cost breakdown.
- d) The Education Committee will work with the Colorado Mesa University Water Center on Direct Civic Outreach programs about Gunnison Basin issues, state issues, et cetera.
- e) The Education Committee will prepare a program on Water Quality, with participation from Steve Gunderson, director of the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, to which we will invite all County Boards of Commissioners, County planners, municipal officials and planners, realtor organizations, and other relevant entities. This will be held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Roundtable meeting, since Water Quality was designated as an area in which the Roundtable members needed some education effort. (This program was carried out in conjunction with the October Roundtable meeting, with ~20 citizens attending in addition to the Roundtable members.)
- f) The Education Committee will prepare a short Powerpoint program on “The Gap” and the IBCC four-part “Framework” for addressing the Gap, which will focus on the Gunnison Basin Gap and on ways in which the statewide Gap may impact the Gunnison Basin. This program will be available for members to use in their home areas, to make presentations to community groups and organizations.

- g) The Education Committee will work with other Water Education groups in the Gunnison Basin to put together collaborative programs for the general public. These groups include the Colorado Water Workshop at Western State College in Gunnison, the Water Center at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, and the various “watershed groups” in the Basin communities (Coal Creek Watershed Coalition in Crested Butte, North Fork River Improvement Association, and other groups in Hinsdale County and the Uncompahgre Basin).
- h) The Education Committee will work with other members of the Roundtable to prepare an “outreach” presentation on the Gunnison Basin and its water resources, to take to other Roundtables around the state, and to other organizations interested in learning more about the Gunnison Basin.

Budget

The Public Education, Participation and Outreach working group for the Interbasin Compact Committee has made \$1,800 available to each Roundtable, for each fiscal year, for expenses incurred in the Education Action programs. For the calendar year 2012, the Roundtable also has other resources for education for the “Colorado Water 2012” programs:

- a) A Water Supply Reserve Account grant for \$19,750 has been applied for, with a decision to be rendered at the March CWCB meeting.
- b) The Water Center at Colorado Mesa University has received a grant from the Walton Family Foundation, a portion of which will be applied to this Energy Action Plan, either directly or through the services of the Water Center.
- c) The Upper Gunnison River District and the Colorado River District have pledged to help with the commemoration events in June and August.

The Budget for the Education Action Plan, including those revenues, is attached.

4.5 Basin Roundtables

Local residents know their communities best and can be most effective at identifying opportunities and coordinating Colorado Water 2012 activities in their area. CFWE currently facilitates the Public Education, Participation and Outreach Workgroup of the IBCC, which includes nine Education Liaisons from each roundtable. To maximize efficiency, CFWE will use these existing relationships to help the nine Basin Roundtables identify the local activities they wish to develop in their communities. It will then be the roundtables' responsibility to plan and implement these activities in 2012.

Communications

The Basin Education Liaisons will be the primary point of contact for each basin and will be responsible for implementing any of the activities designed by the Water 2012 committees that the roundtable wants to implement in their basins. CFWE will contact each Education Liaison to discuss the Water 2012 toolkit and other mechanisms for roundtable involvement. The Liaisons will engage their roundtable's Education and Outreach Committee to integrate Water 2012 into their existing Education Action Plans, if they so desire. CFWE will meet and maintain communication with each Liaison to ensure efficient planning is achieved both within each basin as well as statewide. The Education Liaisons are expected to report back to CFWE on the progress of integrating their roundtables into Water 2012 and CFWE will communicate these activities to the Coordinator for tracking purposes. If identified activities are outside the scope of the roundtables' existing grant programs (such as WSRA grants), CFWE will meet with the Education Liaisons to help identify alternative and/or additional means of funding.

The Education Liaisons for each basin are as follows (9/30/11):

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| • Sean Cronin | South Platte | • Judy Lopez | Rio Grande |
| • Caroline Bradford | Colorado | • Jeff Devere | IBCC & Yampa/White |
| • Debbie Alpe | North Platte | • Perry Cabot | Arkansas |
| • George Sibley | Gunnison | • Tom Acre | Metro |
| • Denise Rue-Pastin | Southwest | | |

Mechanisms for Involvement

The toolkit of activities available to the roundtables to celebrate water in 2012 is outlined in Section 5 below. The budget in Section 7 shows the extent to which Water 2012 plans to implement these activities statewide. If a roundtable wants to implement an activity to a greater scope than outlined in this document, they are encouraged to do so but must raise needed funds on their own.

As an example, the roundtables were asked to coordinate the content and hosting of the traveling exhibit. Each of these displays, designed and purchased by the Water 2012 coalition, contains a panel dedicated to local water information. The Public Education, Participation and

Outreach Workgroup of the IBCC is providing guidance on the elements to include on the display panel, such as depictions of the basin's needs assessments and projects to meet those needs. The Education Liaisons completed a display request form that identifies time periods in which the roundtable would like to host the display, including water events and community festivals. If the roundtable wishes to go beyond this and purchase their own display for extended use in their basin, this is possible but must be funded by the hosting entity.

As roundtables identify additional activities they want to implement in their basin, such as the DMNS Geodome, Speakers Bureau, or their own ideas, they will coordinate with CFWE to ensure these activities are tracked as part of Water 2012 and posted on www.water2012.org.

In addition to the toolkit of activities, the Water 2012 marketing plan (due in November 2011) will outline strategies to create a "buzz" at the statewide level about the initiative. Additionally, the marketing plan will provide strategies and resources that can be adapted for local use such as templates for press releases, advertisements and other outreach mechanisms for each Basin Roundtable to collaborate with local Water 2012 partners through meetings, communications and special events.

Financial Needs

A grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board supports coordination and communication between Water 2012 and the Basin Roundtables as well as the identification of local activities. Funds raised to support the Water 2012 initiative will support the development and implementation of activities such as the traveling exhibit a Geodome visit per basin, training for using the speaker's bureau presentation, author visits, etc. However, if the roundtables pursue planning and implementation of activities beyond those outlined in Section 5 and outside the budget presented in Section 7, they may have additional financial needs. One option currently being pursued by roundtables includes CWCB's Water Supply Reserve Account grant program. These grant requests will be planned and implemented by a local organization in a basin. The approval of such grants by the basin roundtable and the CWCB Board is contingent upon how well the tasks directly tie to their basin's needs assessment and the WSRA Criteria & Guidelines. The Basin Roundtables should consult the WSRA grant guidelines and enabling legislation for language on activities and audiences appropriate for the roundtable process. If identified activities are outside the scope of the roundtables' existing grant programs (such as WSRA grants), CFWE will meet with the Education Liaisons to help identify alternative and/or additional means of funding.