

# STATE OF COLORADO

---

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone: (303) 866-3441  
Fax: (303) 866-4474  
www.cwcb.state.co.us



TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Greg Johnson,  
Water Supply Planning Section

DATE: November 3, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 31.a, November 15-16, 2011 Board Meeting**  
Water Supply Reserve Account Change of Fiscal Agent –  
Lower Willow Creek Restoration Project

---

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel  
CWCB Director

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends granting the requested change of fiscal agent for the Water Supply Reserve Account application of the Lower Willow Creek Restoration Project.

### Background

The Mineral County Fairgrounds Association received approval for a WSRA grant for the Lower Willow Creek Restoration Project totaling \$250,000 at the September 2009 CWCB Board Meeting. The grant includes \$50,000 from the Rio Grande Basin Account and \$200,000 from the Statewide WSRA Account. The CWCB grant provides a critical match for \$398,770 of EPA 319 grant funds approved for the project. The initial project application was submitted by the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee with the San Luis Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council (SLVRC&D) serving as the fiscal agent. Due to complications with the SLVRC&D, the Mineral County Fairgrounds Association (MCFA) assumed full fiscal responsibilities for the WSRA grant prior to the CWCB's approval. To be consistent with fiscal agent responsibilities of the 319 funds the fiscal agent was then changed to the City of Creede at the May 2010 CWCB Board Meeting.

To streamline administration and management of the project, project proponents now request that the fiscal agent be changed to the Lower Willow Creek Restoration Company (LWCRCo), a non-profit whose sole focus is the restoration project. LWCRCo will manage and administer project funds from all sources and ultimately hold title to the land. The non-profit board of LWCRCo consists of two City of Creede Trustees and two members from the current owners, Creede Resources Inc. The Willow Creek Reclamation Committee (WCRC) will continue to serve its role as an advisor to the City of Creede and the Lower Willow Creek Restoration Company. WCRC will aid with project management, technical assistance and serve as a contact to agency personnel, the public and other interested stakeholders.