

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 13.c**

Applicant: Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative

Water Activity Name: The Rio Grande Basin “Narrowing the Gap” for Colorado’s Water Future

Water Activity Purpose: Education & Outreach (nonstructural)

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

River Basin: Rio Grande

Water Source: N/A

Amount Requested: \$23,500 (Basin Account)

Matching Funds: 220% of the grant request - \$51,668 (\$24,450 cash match, \$27,218 in-kind)

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of the applicant’s request of \$23,500 from the Rio Grande Basin Account for the purposes of roundtable and IBCC related education and outreach, on the condition that the applicant works with staff to clarify some aspects of the scope of work related to the “Value of Water” and water leaders.

Water Activity Summary:

The application builds on previous work conducted in the Rio Grande during Water 2012 and the work of the IBCCs Public Education, Participation, and Outreach work group. As stated in the application, the project has the following objectives.

1. Build on Water 2012 Efforts to educate citizens of the Rio Grande Basin through print, radio, and public events.
2. We have a stakeholder driven process in the Rio Grande Basin that aligns itself with the IBCC “Value of Water” Goals.
3. The Rio Grande Basin’s outreach and education program aligns itself with the IBCC’s Consensus Messages to communicate a clear water message about Colorado’s water future.
4. The Rio Grande Basin’s communication portfolio of solutions incorporates water from conservation, reuse, agricultural to municipal transfers, and the development of new supplies to minimize the impact to agriculture, the environment, and recreation.
5. The communication tools within the basin will demonstrate that supporting agriculture, environmental, and recreational projects can be multi-purpose, meeting more than one need.

This is the third application by the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Funding Overview

The applicant’s cash and in-kind match are more than two times the grant request.

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:

- Disseminate the IBCC’s consensus messages to Rio Grande citizens,
- Get community members involved in a “narrowing the gap” club,
- Tour WSRA projects in the basin which focus on basin issues,
- Publish 24 stories on consumptive and nonconsumptive uses and other topics,
- Develop a “pull-out” for the weekly newspaper about water, reaching 11,000 readers
- Coordinate 12 radio interviews on consumptive and nonconsumptive needs in the basin, reaching 60,000 listeners a month, and
- A Rio Grande course for 20 water leaders.

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 concerning the “Value of Water” efforts to ensure the tasks proposed in this grant fit within and do not duplicate planned activities or further confuse the “Value of Water. Further work with the applicant is required on this topic regarding language, but the tasks themselves do not duplicate planned activities.

There is also concern about the use of the term “Water Leaders,” which is a Colorado Foundation for Water Education program.

The previous two grants to the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative were successfully completed.

Issues/Additional Needs:

The applicant has agreed to work with staff to clarify aspects of the scope of work related to “Value of Water” and water leaders.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the applicant’s request of \$23,500 from the Rio Grande Basin Account for the purposes of roundtable and IBCC related education and outreach, on the condition that the applicant works with staff to clarify some aspects of the scope of work related to the “Value of Water” and water leaders.

All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to the 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 and Final Deliverable: 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. 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 by or under the responsible charge of professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.