

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program  
Water Activity Summary Sheet**

**Applicant:** Colorado Foundation for Water Education

**Amount Requested:** \$32,038 (\$16,019 from Metro and \$16,019 from South Platte)

**Water Activity Name:** Solicitation of stakeholder input and advice through publication of a South Platte Edition of Headwaters Magazine

**Source of Funds:** Metro and South Platte Basin Account

**Matching Funds:** \$10,900 In-kind Contributions

**Water Activity Purpose:** Non-Structural Water Activity

**County:** All counties in the South Platte Basin

**Drainage Basin:** South Platte

**Water Source:** South Platte River, its tributaries, and alluvial aquifer

<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
The application is well prepared and the proposed project furthers the Metro Roundtable's needs assessment. Staff recommends approval of up to \$16,019 from the Metro Account and \$16,019 from the South Platte Basin Account to help complete the South Platte Edition of Headwaters Magazine contingent on resolution of the item in the issues/additional needs section.

**Water Activity Summary:**

*Applicant*

The Colorado Foundation for Water Education was created by act of the Colorado State Legislature (HB02-1152) in 2002 to promote a better understanding of water issues through educational opportunities and resources so Colorado citizens will understand water as a limited resource and will make informed decisions. The Foundation's Board of Trustees consists of both appointed and selected individuals who represent the diverse geography and affiliations of Colorado's water community. The Foundation is Colorado's premiere source of unbiased, independent information on water. It has over 350 paying members located across Colorado, and currently has one full-time staff member, two part-time staff members and a number of subcontractors to achieve mission-related work.

*Overview of the Water Activity*

The proposal will provide a tool for Metro and South Platte Basin Roundtable members to actively solicit input and advice from affected local governments and stakeholders on their needs assessment and proposed projects/methods for meeting those needs. The project is intended to educate Basin Roundtable stakeholders in the South Platte Basin about the basin's geography, water supply and environmental challenges, water management agencies (including the IBCC and Roundtables) and water needs. The issue will help the Metro and South Platte Roundtables achieve their goal of communicating with basin stakeholders to better solicit their input for needs assessments and project planning.

The Foundation will provide support to Basin Roundtable members in their outreach efforts by providing materials and assisting in their distribution, and attending a limited number of speaking engagements on

behalf of the Basin Roundtable to discuss the contents of the issue. The issue would be available in October, 2008 and will educate over 6,000 Colorado residents about issues in the South Platte Basin.

Headwaters magazine is the Foundation's most widely available and well-known educational resource. Each issue reaches over 6,000 residents of Colorado and the West. Once a year, the magazine features a river basin in Colorado and discusses in detail the challenges the basin faces, the agencies and people responsible for managing water resource affiliated issues, and the many success stories already accomplished. The Foundation has featured the San Juan, Dolores, Rio Grande and Arkansas basins since the first basin-focused issue in 2004.

#### *Threshold and Evaluation Criteria*

The application articulates how the project meets all four Threshold Criteria.

#### *Funding Overview*

Grant funding in the amount of \$32,038 is being requested from the Metro and South Platte Basin Accounts. The total cost of the project, including in-kind contributions, is \$42,938. Funding from the WSRA constitutes 75% of the project cost. In-kind contributions include review and general oversight by the CFWE Committee members, graphic design by CFWE staff, and project management by CFWE staff.

#### **Discussion:**

CRS Section 37-75-104(2) requires that "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." This proposal will help the Metro and South Platte Basin Roundtables communicate to those stakeholders the needs of the basin, the projects and initiatives currently proposed to meet them, and the avenues for input.

Headwaters Magazine has a long history of educating Colorado citizens on the history, use and management of the state's water resources. The South Platte edition, like other basin-focused editions before it, will describe the challenges the basin faces, the agencies and people responsible for managing water resource-affiliated issues, and the many success stories already accomplished. The edition will also feature the South Platte and Metro Roundtables and discuss their roles and responsibilities, their needs assessment and technical work, and avenues to become involved or provide input.

In order for the stakeholders within the South Platte Basin to provide input and advice to the Basin Roundtable, they must adequately understand the issues the Roundtable is meant to address and know the avenues to provide such input and advice. The proposal will be a tool Roundtable members can use to actively solicit feedback from affected local governments and other stakeholders as they develop their basin-wide water needs assessments.

In order to accomplish the project, there are four tasks in the Scope of Work:

#### Task 1: Story Budget Creation

This comprises work to reach agreement on which stories will be in the issue, length and identification of sources and reviewers.

#### Task 2: Writing and Editing

This comprises the actual writing, editing and review of the edition

#### Task 3: Graphic Design and Printing

This comprises the layout, creation of graphics, photography and any other visual art work needed, as well as printing of the edition. 6,500 copies will be printed.

#### **Task 4: Distribution and input solicitation**

The edition will be distributed via mail to over 5,500 readers, to each Roundtable member for their distribution efforts and hosted electronically on CFWE's web site. CFWE will provide distribution assistance to Roundtable members so they can reach key stakeholder groups effectively.

East task will be accomplished through the Foundation's vetted and adopted publication procedures. The result will be an approximately 30-page, full color, educational magazine focused on the South Platte Basin that members can use to actively seek input and advice from local stakeholders as they develop their basin-wide water needs assessment.

#### **Issues/Additional Needs:**

The Metro Roundtable requested an additional member be added to the Committee performing review and general oversight. They requested an individual with experience in local/domestic water issues. Please confirm this has been done and identify changes to the Committee.

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

The application is well prepared and the proposed project furthers the Metro and South Platte Basin Roundtable's needs assessments. Staff recommends approval of up to \$16,019 from the Metro Account and \$16,019 from the South Platte Basin Account to help complete the South Platte Edition of Headwaters Magazine contingent on resolution of the item in the issues/additional needs section.

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.