

Rio Grande Inter-Basin Roundtable  
c/o San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District  
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September 10, 2014

Mr. Michael King, Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Craig Godbout, Program Manager, Water Supply Planning Section  
Colorado Water Conservation Board

**RIO GRANDE BASIN WATER PLAN – FUTURE WORK**  
**WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT – FUNDING REQUEST \$115,000**

Gentlemen:

The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable (R.G.R.T.) has determined that the single, most critical water issue confronting the Rio Grande Basin (Basin) is the current unsustainable management of surface and ground water. The R.G.R.T. has made the decision that water activities that address this issue be favorably considered for funding from the Water Supply Reserve Account, SB 2005-179 (WSRA Funds), providing the proposed water activities meet the SWSI findings for the Basin and the CWCB & IBCC Criteria and Guidelines for funding.

This letter is further to my communication of August 17, 2014, on the captioned subject.

The is aware that the current form of the Rio Grande Basin Water Plan requires additional work if it is to meet the future goals and needs of the Basin in addressing the Basin's long term water issues. At a regular R.G.R.T. Meeting on September 9, 2014, the R.G.R.T. Members passed a motion approving the request by the R.G.R.T. for WSRA funding to complete the Rio Grande Basin Plan, in the amount of \$115,000. The R.G.R.T. requests that \$77,000 be allocated from the Rio Grande Basin Funds and the balance of \$38,000 be allocated from Statewide Funds.

At the meeting on September 9, 2014 there was one dissenting vote by Member Charles Spielman who had previously presented a proposal to the Steering Committee of the R.G.R.T., who have the responsibility of overseeing the completion of the Basin Water Plan. Mr. Spielman's proposal was that the additional work to revise the current draft of the Basin Water Plan of July 31, 2014, and produce a final product, be made by members of the Steering Committee and Subcommittees who had provided input to the consultants, DiNatale Water Consultants, in drafting the current July 31, 2014 Basin Water Plan.

The Steering Committee had carefully considered Mr. Spielman's proposal had elected not to accept the proposal for a number of reasons, including the limited time and resources of these

Committees. It has been determined that the consultant used for the drafting of the Draft Basin Plan, DiNatale Water Consultants, should continue the work on the Basin Plan because of their familiarity with the issues and to maintain consistency in the documentation.

The Steering Committee recognizes that committee members will continue to be an integral resource in the review and editing of the Draft Basin Water Plan, working in close cooperation with DiNatale Water Consultants in completing the Plan by April 2015.

The following is a summary of the proposed Scope of Work for the completion of the Rio Grande Basin Plan:

Task 1: Solicit Public/BRT input on the Draft Plan of July 31, 2014:

- a. Disseminate printed copies of the Draft Plan.
- b. Hold (2-4) regional public input meetings for people to provide input on the Basin Plan.
- c. Hold meetings with the R.G.R.T. Steering Committee and Subcommittees to get edits and additional information to be included in the Basin Plan.

Task 2: Develop an Executive Summary that provides a condensed summary of the key parts of the Basin Plan (the current Draft does not have an Executive Summary):

- a. Hold meetings with the Steering Committee and the R.G.R.T. to decide which content, currently existing and new, should be included in the Executive Summary.
- b. Work with Basin Roundtable subcommittees to finalize the Executive Summary.

Task 3: Review, update, and edit the Basin Overview Section:

- a. Work with the Basin Roundtable Steering Committee and Subcommittees to finalize the Basin Overview.
- b. Revise current and add missing maps, graphs and charts. Examples of additional maps include: reservoirs having conservation pool agreements and a map showing where major wetland areas are located.
- c. Review and revise references, cross-references, and works cited.

Task 4: Review, update, and edit the Basin Water Needs Section:

- a. Work with the Basin Roundtable Steering Committee and Subcommittees to finalize the Basin Water Needs.
- b. Revise current and add missing maps, graphs and charts.
- c. Review and revise references, cross-references, and works cited.

Task 5: Review, update, and edit the Opportunities and Constraints Section:

- a. Work with the Basin Roundtable Steering Committee and Subcommittees to finalize the Opportunities and Constraints.
- b. Revise current and add missing maps, graphs and charts.
- c. Review and revise references, cross-references, and works cited.
- d. Develop a RWEACT Chapter for the Plan that details the West Fork Complex Fire and how RWEACT was developed, all of the work RWEACT has accomplished, and future projects (i.e.: on-going efforts, Great Divide, Biomass Industry, RGN Forest Plan Revision etc.).
- e. Meet with water officials and interested parties including, but not limited to: the Division 3 Engineering staff, Conejos Water Conservancy District, the Rio Grande Water Conservancy District, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, and entities with storage rights to provide information about what is included in the model and modeling assumptions, as

well as to solicit additional information about river administration, storage use and releases, and general water operations to improve the function and use of the Rio Grande Basin Planning Model.

- f. Refine the Rio Grande Basin Planning Model.
  - Make model runs as appropriate to support projects and methods
  - Perform additional climate change analysis
  - Finish all 30-year windows of 21<sup>st</sup> century with 5 representative traces
  - Incorporate an increase in IWR based on projected changes in temperature, precipitation and frost date.
  - Complete StateCU runs for the Rio Grande Basin with projected climate station data, use new IWR data in RiverWare Climate Change runs.
  - More analysis of effects on specific water rights, Compact compliance.
  - Improve model calibration
  - Perform additional work on timing and volume of return flows
  - Improve the use of historical or modeled start and end of the irrigation season (currently using April 1 – Oct. 31)
  - Change rules for the Curtailment and Compact administration
  - Include logic for Compact storage
  - Incorporate storage for multiple benefits into the model
  - Analyze specific project ideas

Task 6: Review, update, and edit the Projects and Methods Section:

- a. Create additional project sheets with funding and scope for identified projects and methods that currently don't have one and additional projects and methods identified through public and R.G.R.T. feedback.
- b. Update costs and goals met tables to include new projects and methods
- c. Add a map with the location of all projects and methods as applicable.

Task 7: Continue communication, education and public outreach once the Plan is finalized:

- a. Complete the Rio Grande Basin Water 101 booklet and distribute.
- b. Distribute the completed Executive Summary to Basin stakeholders including County Commissioners, water administrators, water users, etc.
- c. Attend the Water Resources Review Committee public meeting in the Basin as well as any additional public outreach meeting scheduled by the WRRC in the Basin.
- d. Continue radio, newspaper and articles outreach efforts regarding the RGBIP.
- e. Continue website management and updates for the Plan.
- f. Follow up with Basin-wide meetings or information sharing in basin communities

Task 8: Provide project management including coordination of meetings, review of draft documents, communications, and grant reimbursements:

- a. Coordinate and provide guidance and feedback for professional editor and graphic designer.

The Following are the Deliverables Associated with this Scope of Work:

1. Finalized Rio Grande Basin Water Plan
2. Rio Grande Basin Water Plan Executive Summary
3. Finalized Rio Grande Basin Planning Model with improved calibration, additional climate change results, and documentation that can be used to evaluate projects and methods



4. Up-to-date projects and methods project sheets complete with project scope and funding needs for identified projects
5. 6 color-printed copies of the Final Plan
6. 100 color-printed copies of the Executive Summary with an electronic copy of the Plan on a CD.

Schedule Associated with the Scope of Work:

Rio Grande Basin Plan Option 2: Schedule								
Task Description	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May - Dec
Task 1: Solicit Public Input on the Plan								
Task 2: Executive Summary								
Task 3: Basin Overview								
Task 4: Basin Water Needs								
Task 5: Opportunities and Constraints								
Sub task: RWEACT Chapter								
Sub task: Modelling Meetings								
Sub task: Rio Grande Basin Modelling								
Task 6: Projects and Methods								
Task 7: Public Outreach								
Task 8: Project Management								
Proof Reader								
Graphic Designer - Final rework of the Plan								
Printing and CDs								

Cost to Complete the Scope of Work:

The total cost of the effort to complete the Scope of Work is estimated to be \$115,000. The R.G.R.T. requests that \$77,000 be allocated from the Rio Grande Basin Funds and the balance of \$38,000 be allocated from Statewide Funds.

The R.G.R.T. appreciates the support of Colorado Water Conservation Board in assisting in this effort to develop a Rio Grande Basin Water Plan that will serve as a guidance document to the Basin as it addresses the critical future water issues of the Basin, which in turn will assist in Colorado meeting its long term water needs and supplies.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Gibson  
Chair, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable