



COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM

Today's Date: November 26, 2014

Little Thompson River Water Supply, Use and Planning Study

Name of Water Activity/Project

Big Thompson Conservation District's Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition

Name of Applicant

South Platte Basin Roundtable

Amount from Statewide Account:

\$0 (at this time)

Amount from Basin Account(s):

\$60,000

Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

\$60,000

FEIN: 84-6000147

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Required Exhibits

- A. Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule
- B. Project Map
- C. As Needed (i.e. letters of support, photos, maps, etc.)

Appendices – Reference Material

- 1. Program Information
- 2. Insurance Requirements
- 3. WSRA Standard Contract Information (Required for Projects Over \$100,000)
- 4. W-9 Form (Required for All Projects Prior to Contracting)

Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

Instructions

To receive funding from the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA), a proposed water activity must be approved by the local Basin Roundtable **AND** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC). The process for Basin Roundtable consideration and approval is outlined in materials in Appendix 1.

Once approved by the local Basin Roundtable, the applicant should submit this application **with a detailed statement of work including budget and schedule as Exhibit A** to CWCBC staff by the application deadline.

WSRA applications are due with the roundtable letter of support 60 calendar days prior to the bi-monthly Board meeting at which it will be considered. Board meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Meeting details, including scheduled dates, agendas, etc. are posted on the CWCBC website at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us> Applications to the WSRA Basin Account are considered at every board meeting, while applications to the WSRA Statewide Account are only considered at the March and September board meetings.

When completing this application, the applicant should refer to the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines available at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Documents/WSRACriteriaGuidelines.pdf>. In addition, the applicant should also refer to the [Supplemental Scoring Matrix](#) applied to Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 for Statewide Account requests .

The application, statement of work, budget, and schedule **must be submitted in electronic format** (Microsoft Word or text-enabled PDF are preferred) and can be emailed or mailed on a disk to:

Craig Godbout - WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203
Craig.godbout@state.co.us

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Craig Godbout at: 303-866-3441 x3210 or craig.godbout@state.co.us.

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Part I. - Description of the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner);

1.	Applicant Name(s):	Big Thompson Conservation District's (BTCD) Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition (LTWRC)		
	Mailing address:	Big T CD/Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition PO Box 441 Berthoud, CO 80513 <i>Website: www.LTWRC.org</i>		
	FEIN #:	84-6000147		
	Primary Contact:	Gordon Gilstrap	Position/Title:	President, BTCD
	Email:	gordon@bigthompson.org		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: (970) 619-8193	Office:	(970) 988-6412
	Alternate Contact:	Kevin McCarty	Position/Title:	Board Member, BTCD
	Email:	kevin@mccartylw.com		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: (970) 581-1953	Office:	(970) 635-0900
	Alternate Contact:	Deirdre Daly	Position/Title:	Committee member, LTWRC
	Email:	d2daly@yahoo.com		
	Phone Numbers	Cell: 303-656-1909	Home/Office:	303-823-5307

2. Eligible entities for WSRA funds include the following. What type of entity is the Applicant?

- ☐ Public (Government) – municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities and the local entity should be the grant recipient. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
- ☒ Public (Districts) – authorities, Title 32/special districts, (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
- ☐ Private Incorporated – mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
- ☐ Private individuals, partnerships, and sole proprietors are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
- ☐ Non-governmental organizations – broadly defined as any organization that is not part of the government.

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3. Provide a brief description of your organization

The Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition (LTWRC) is a group of landowners, businesses, government agencies and other stakeholders, including those for Mutual Ditch Companies, along the Little Thompson River. The Coalition is sponsored by the Big Thompson Conservation District (BTCD), a unit of local government under the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The Coalition was formed in January 2013 with a primary mission to restore and maintain the resiliency, function, and ecological integrity of the Little Thompson Watershed following the disastrous floods of 2013.

The BTCD has a sixty-nine year history of working with agricultural producers and small acreage owners to institute new programs, infrastructure and training for conservation practices. Past projects have included the development of new irrigation infrastructure, institutionalizing the process for conversion of flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation and developing specific training programs for agricultural producers and small acreage owners. The primary partners of the District for its projects are the landowners, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and CSU Extension Services. Since forming the Coalition, the BTCD has partnered with the Colorado Water Conservation Board for the Little Thompson River Master Plan. It continues to partner with surrounding counties and other public and private organizations to meet its needs and the needs of the Little Thompson Restoration Coalition.

The Little Thompson River is 64 miles long and flows through Larimer, Boulder and Weld counties. It was one of the worst hit in the Front Range during the 2013 flood; some of the highest documented floodwaters ravaged the watershed with unprecedented flows, exceeding 15,000 cubic feet per second.

The Coalition recently completed a first-ever Watershed Master Plan with Tetra Tech as the contractor and technical team, in close cooperation with stakeholders. Critical funds for the Watershed Master Plan were primarily provided by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, with support from two of the three counties, the Big Thompson Conservation District, Coalition members and other stakeholders.

Through the BTCD, the Coalition developed and is maintaining a database of its landowners, neighbors and supporting organizations. We maintain a website where our activities and data can be found: www.ltwrc.org. We publish an email newsletter and hold twice monthly meetings which are open to the public, to hear needs of landowners and obtain feedback on the Master Plan. We organized into a Coordinating Committee of landowners from each river neighborhood, county representatives, and others volunteering towards its goals. All of this time and effort is made voluntarily, without compensation, by the Coalition members and BTCD, contributing time, expertise and funds (travel costs, landowner visits, and administrative costs associated with running a volunteer enterprise).

4. If the Contracting Entity is different then the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner) please describe the Contracting Entity here.

The Big Thompson Conservation District will be the contracting entity on behalf of the Coalition.

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5. Successful applicants will have to execute a contract with the CWCB prior to beginning work on the portion of the project funded by the WSRA grant. In order to expedite the contracting process the CWCB has established a standard contract with provisions the applicant must adhere to. A link to this standard contract is included in Appendix 3. Please review this contract and check the appropriate box.

☒

The Applicant will be able to contract with the CWCB using the Standard Contract

☐

The Applicant has reviewed the standard contract and has some questions/issues/concerns. Please be aware that any deviation from the standard contract could result in a significant delay between grant approval and the funds being available.

6. The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.

There are no issues BTCD or LTWRC has with receiving grant funds per TABOR.

Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project

1. What is the primary purpose of this grant application? (Please check only one)

☐

Nonconsumptive (Environmental or Recreational)

☐

Agricultural

☐

Municipal/Industrial

☒

Needs Assessment

☐

Education

☐

Other

2. If you feel this project addresses multiple purposes please explain.

This will be a first-time study and needs assessment looking at the total volume of river water used for a) agricultural, b) domestic, c) environmental, and d) a look to see if there are any new industrial uses since the oil and gas boom that may negatively impact the watershed. It is Phase One of a two, three (or possibly four) phase long-term project. This study of the Little Thompson River's viable future will begin to facilitate inclusion and recognition of the river into the Colorado Statewide Water Initiative and the state's future plans as well as other local, state and federal planning processes.

Once results and data from Phase One are available, we will propose Phase Two (through the Water Statewide Reserve Account) to identify plans and processes. Where applicable, these plans and processes might include water storage, exchanges, minimum stream flow, re-charge, for the future. Phases Three and (Four) will be implementation of any recommendations.

3. Is this project primarily a study or implementation of a water activity/project? (Please check only one)

☒

Study

☐

Implementation

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4. To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRA funds can you provide any of the following numbers?

The Coalition is unable to provide any of the following numbers; such a water supply and use study has never been undertaken or obtained for the Little Thompson River. The results of this first-time study will enable the stakeholders along the Little Thompson River and the State of Colorado to address all of the categories noted below.

<input type="text"/>	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
<input type="text"/>	New Annual Water Supplies Developed. Consumptive or
<input type="text"/>	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
<input type="text"/>	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
<input type="text"/>	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
<input type="text"/>	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year OR dollars/year – circle
<input type="text"/>	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
<input type="text"/>	Other -- <input type="text"/>

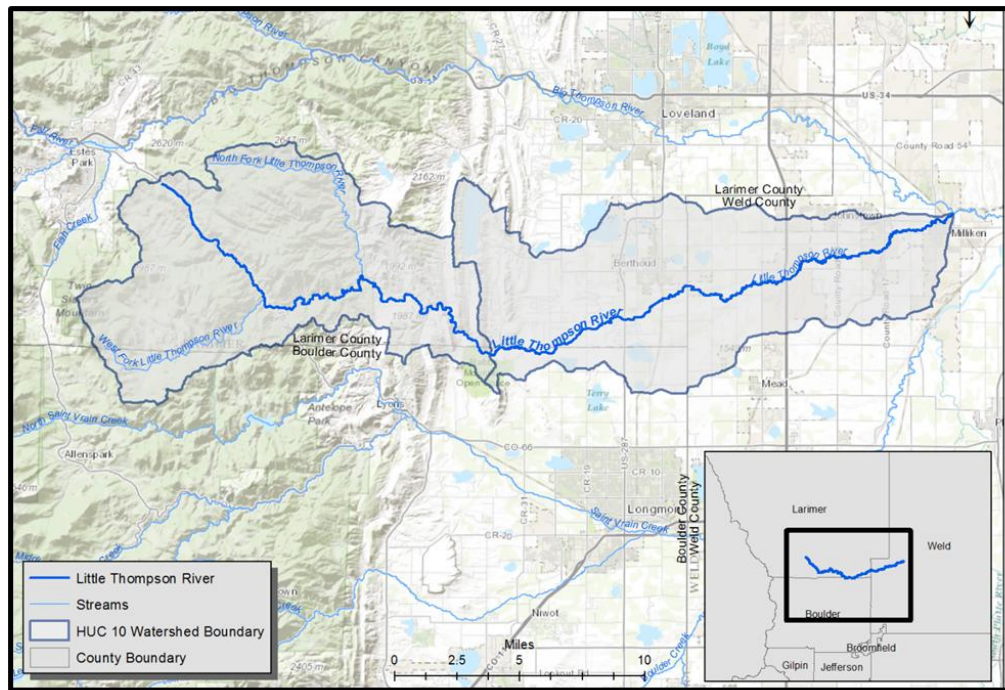
5. To help us map WSRA projects please include a map (Exhibit B) and provide the general coordinates below:

Latitude:

Longitude:

See attached map of Watershed, Exhibit B. A small version is displayed here:

Little Thompson River Watershed



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6... Please provide an overview/summary of the proposed water activity (no more than one page). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRA funding will be used for. A full Statement of Work with a detailed budget and schedule is required as Exhibit A of this application.

Overview/Summary of Proposed Little Thompson River Water Supply, Use and Planning Study ***Needs Assessment Objectives***

Our objective is to develop a comprehensive analysis of the water availability and use in the Little Thompson River, and to subsequently determine the total volume of water necessary to alleviate any agricultural, domestic and environmental water deficits discovered. The assessment will include the sources of water uses in the watershed and the general impacts of their return flows, plus any potential impacts—good or bad—of changes to the historical uses of water in the basin.

Water sources studied will be limited to those sources originating in the basin (this is not a geologic study), and will not consider interrelationship between wells and groundwater, or imported water, at this time. While we understand the benefits in collecting and documenting this information, and we believe it to be beneficial to the basin and the state's data for future planning, you will see from our budget summary that this level of detail may be prohibitive at this time. Similarly, a detailed study of return flows, to include such various methods as surface runoff, lagged deep percolation, treatment plants, septic systems, lagoons, or other flows, will also be prohibitive under the grant requested at this time.

The research and statistics resulting from this quantitative assessment will be used to build a foundation for the identification of and timing for subsequent plans and processes related to any potential improvements of water deficits discovered. We recognize the expected increase in demands for water in northeast Colorado's water basin, and wish to conduct this study as a collaborative effort with the South Platte Basin Roundtable to obtain water supply availability data and address future water needs.

The Coalition members are confident there are serious water supply issues within the Watershed. Phase One will give both a true picture of what the needs are as well as an accurate scope of work and budget for Phase Two. Phase Two will be to identify plans and processes to address the needs discovered. The Coalition recognizes and wants to expand the efforts of the CWCB to firmly establish needs before possible solutions are identified. For informational purposes only, Phase Two could explore potential small-scale watershed projects to address needs to alleviate water supply deficits and restore continuous flows in the river to improve environmental use.

Proposed solutions should be moderate, with elements that can be implemented over time, and should be compatible with the Colorado State Water Plan. They may include activities like a multi-purpose water storage with a flood control component, exchange potentials (for example, NCWCD to deliver water to the North Fork), storage ponds for minimum in-stream flow for aquatic and riparian habitat, and/or recharge ponds. This action is to be tabled until Phase One is completed and then submitted to the Statewide Reserve Account funds at a later date.

South Platte Basin Roundtable grant funds are requested to hire a technical consultant to conduct this study, with oversight, input and direction from the volunteer members of the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition and the Big Thompson Conservation District. Detailed tasks associated with these objectives are outlined in Exhibit A, Statement of Work, attached, and noted in this application in Part IV., Required Supporting Material, Number 3. Statement of Work.

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Part III. – Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

1. Describe how the water activity meets these **Threshold Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines.)

a) The water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes.¹

The Big Thompson Conservation District (BTCD), a conservation district under the Colorado Department of Agriculture, is applying on behalf of the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition (LTWRC), and is eligible to apply for these South Platte Basin Roundtable WSRA funds. The Needs Assessment described herein is for the study and understanding of the use of water in the Little Thompson River to support planning for its future conservation and protection.

No such study has ever been conducted for the Little Thompson River. There is little data available, and no comprehensive data available on water use in the Watershed. The use of any grant funds received for this purpose are and will be consistent with Section 37-75-102 of the Colorado Revised Statutes as described on this page.

As Coalition members, we realize the Little Thompson River is unrecognized and the water is not appreciated. The Little Thompson Watershed is not mentioned in SWSI and has subsequently been left out of the State Water Plan. This is not due to the lack of needs in the basin. The basin has severe domestic, agricultural and environmental water gaps. Stretches of the river have been going dry and reduced flows have damaged agricultural productivity and aquatic habitat.

Historical records indicate this river was an active trout fishery. As drought conditions have persisted in recent years, agricultural water users have seen less water and some stretches of river which were formerly good for trout fishing have periodically dried up. This has taken place under the radar in the midst of this ongoing statewide water planning effort.

Use of the state's in-stream flow program to support environmental activities may be something the Coalition will be eligible for once the data from this study is complete. The Little Thompson River is the only significant South Platte tributary on the Front Range without any in-stream flow rights.

Conservation measures are in place, and have been in place for some time, in the one significant municipal water district within the basin. Development in upper portions of the watershed has exceeded available water supplies and has created a situation where Pinewood Springs has some of the most severe permanent water restrictions in the state.

Unlike many other watersheds, there is no municipality promoting study of basin water rights. It wasn't until the 2013 flood and the creation of the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition that the group acknowledged that the Watershed is being left out of the State Water Plan. It soon became

¹ 37-75-102. Water rights - protections. (1) It is the policy of the General Assembly that the current system of allocating water within Colorado shall not be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired by this article. Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to repeal or in any manner amend the existing water rights adjudication system. The General Assembly affirms the state constitution's recognition of water rights as a private usufructuary property right, and this article is not intended to restrict the ability of the holder of a water right to use or to dispose of that water right in any manner permitted under Colorado law. (2) The General Assembly affirms the protections for contractual and property rights recognized by the contract and takings protections under the state constitution and related statutes. This article shall not be implemented in any way that would diminish, impair, or cause injury to any property or contractual right created by intergovernmental agreements, contracts, stipulations among parties to water cases, terms and conditions in water decrees, or any other similar document related to the allocation or use of water. This article shall not be construed to supersede, abrogate, or cause injury to vested water rights or decreed conditional water rights. The General Assembly affirms that this article does not impair, limit, or otherwise affect the rights of persons or entities to enter into agreements, contracts, or memoranda of understanding with other persons or entities relating to the appropriation, movement, or use of water under other provisions of law.

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apparent that it was going to be up to our organization to stand up for the Little Thompson River and the Watershed. Due to the impending nature of the State Water Plan, the Coalition has been working aggressively to become heard and be included in the plan as well as voice the needs and attributes of the river.

As far as our needs and gap areas between available water supply and future need as identified in SWSI, we are not included anywhere in the SWSI or the State Water Plan, and the Little Thompson Watershed has no representation on the South Platte Basin Roundtable. Therefore, this Basin Roundtable's Needs Assessment is a critical step towards our inclusion.

After consultation with the Needs Committee, CWCB staff and careful consideration of grant criteria, the Coalition feels the most logical approach to the situation is to break the process into phases, with the first phase being a Needs Assessment. The Coalition is confident this needs assessment will quantify and document the water supply gaps that exist in the Watershed. This study offers an opportunity to research and quantify those gaps and needs and will set the stage for identifying plans and processes to address them.

We will also seek better utilization of intra-basin water, as it is unlikely that the study will result in a solution based on trans-basin water.

If the grant is successfully funded for the Needs Assessment, this will be the first step in the broader goal of solving the serious water supply gaps which exist in this basin. Beyond that basic goal, a listing of the following goals and actions would be a positive outcome of this water activity:

- Identify plans and processes to address water supply gaps for existing consumptive and non-consumptive uses in the basin.
 - Solutions by means of alternatives with limited environmental impacts
 - Identification of alternatives which firm up supplies for existing uses (consumptive and non-consumptive)
 - Targeting intra-basin solutions which can utilize existing water rights and any available un-appropriated flows
 - Solutions which protect private property rights and will not displace homeowners
- Pursue cost effective solutions which are appropriately sized for the needs of historic and existing consumptive and non-consumptive water uses in the basin. It is the Coalition's hope that such options will come to light when plans and processes are studied.
- Actively engage agricultural and domestic water users along with beneficiaries of improved river flows to take a comprehensive approach to solving the water gap for the basin as a whole. While the Coalition is acting as the catalyst for addressing our water supply gaps, it is understood that any solution is going to be dependent of cooperation among all water users in the basin.

In conclusion, the analysis and designed approach is exactly what the State Water Plan is targeting. The Coalition would be most confident if the entire project (Phase One and Phase Two) could be funded at this time—a study of the needs along with plans and processes—however, the phased approach is the most logical and cost effective since it will be more efficient with regards to budgeting for plans and processes once a needs assessment is in hand.

In the case for the Little Thompson River, the assessment and evaluation is essentially starting scratch, along with the Coalition's interface and introduction into the State Water Plan at this late date.

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The Coalitions requests your assistance for this purpose, with a guided agenda to be a part of the plan in achieving that goal.

- b) The water activity underwent an evaluation and approval process and was approved by the Basin Roundtable (BRT) and the application includes a description of the results of the BRTs evaluation and approval of the activity. At a minimum, the description must include the level of agreement reached by the roundtable, including any minority opinion(s) if there was not general agreement for the activity. The description must also include reasons why general agreement was not reached (if it was not), including who opposed the activity and why they opposed it. Note- If this information is included in the letter from the roundtable chair simply reference that letter.

The Coalition is seeking the South Platte Basin Roundtable Basin's review and approval with this application.

Members of the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition (LTWRC) made oral presentations in June 2014 and September 2014 to the Needs Committee of the South Platte Basin Roundtable about this proposed needs assessment. This application to the Basin is the written request for funding.

At both of the earlier presentations, there was general agreement by the Needs Committee that this proposed Water Supply, Use and Planning Study for the Little Thompson River will be beneficial to the river watershed and the basin.

The application is hereby submitted to the South Platte Basin Roundtable's Needs Committee Chair (on November 26, 2014) in advance of the December 1 deadline requested. We are prepared and plan to come before the BRT Needs Committee on January 6, 2015. Should that presentation prove successful, we are holding the date of January 13, 2015 to present to the full South Platte Basin Roundtable to seek a letter describing the benefits of this proposal to the basin's water supply needs in order to proceed with the application process.

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- c) The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes.² The Basin Roundtable Chairs shall include in their approval letters for particular WSRA grant applications a description of how the water activity will assist in meeting the water supply needs identified in the basin roundtable's consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs assessments.

On behalf of the Coalition, the prospective and proposed study with planning request meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2) (c) Colorado Revised Statutes. A portion of that section states:

“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.”

The Coalition offers united input of over 700 landowners along or near the Little Thompson River, which flows through three counties but has no municipalities or an overarching government entity with a vested interest in the river's health or its use, to represent us, advocate for its needs, or provide critical staffing for river management. Through the efforts of the Big Thompson Conservation District, a distinct and confident group has come together as landowners and stakeholders on the river to seek your support and submit this application. By forming the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition, some resources have been secured and a sense of ownership for the welfare of the river has been accomplished. We have established as the mission that the Coalition will “restore and maintain the flood resiliency, ecological integrity and agricultural heritage of the Little Thompson River watershed from its headwaters above Big Elk Meadows, through Pinewood Springs and Blue Mountain in Larimer County, through its flow into Boulder County, then back into Larimer County south of Berthoud and over to Weld County in Milliken where it meets the Big Thompson River.”

The landowners and river stakeholders are a diverse group, everyone from mountain vacation homes to mountain full time residents who commute to other towns for work and schools, to suburban rural residents nearby small towns to small and large farmers on the plains. The Coalition is coordinating as collaborative partners with local, state and federal agencies, and although the 2013 flood brought devastation to our river, it also brought a focus to it, starting with the people who live there and their interest in bringing the river to your attention for your help to plan for the future. Members of the Coalition are the landowners themselves, and are providing leadership in this planning, with your guidance and support.

The Coalition is requesting that the CWCB and the South Platte Basin Roundtable provide an impetus for this potential assessment project, and is fully aware that the multitude of various project beneficiaries, once more specifically identified, need to and will commit to playing a critical role in its development and implementation, along with long term management for success.

² 37-75-104 (2)(c). Using data and information from the Statewide Water Supply Initiative and other appropriate sources and in cooperation with the on-going Statewide Water Supply Initiative, develop a basin-wide consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs assessment, conduct an analysis of available unappropriated waters within the basin, and propose projects or methods, both structural and nonstructural, for meeting those needs and utilizing those unappropriated waters where appropriate. 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. Recommendations from this assessment shall be forwarded to the Interbasin Compact Committee and other basin roundtables for analysis and consideration after the General Assembly has approved the Interbasin Compact Charter.

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- d) **Matching Requirement:** For requests from the Statewide Fund, the applicants will be required to demonstrate a 25 percent (or greater) match of the total grant request from the other sources, including by not limited to Basin Funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount shall be from Basin funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount must come from the applicant or 3rd party sources. Sources of matching funds include but are not limited to Basin Funds, in-kind services, funding from other sources, and/or direct cash match. Past expenditures directly related to the project may be considered as matching funds if the expenditures occurred within 9 months of the date the contract or purchase order between the applicant and the State of Colorado is executed. Please describe the source(s) of matching funds. (NOTE: These matching funds should also be reflected in your Detailed Budget in Exhibit A of this application)

See Exhibit A for the budget narrative and budget.

2. For Applications that include a request for funds from the **Statewide Account**, describe how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines and repeated below.) Projects will be assessed on how well they meet the Evaluation Criteria. **Please attach additional pages as necessary.**

Evaluation Criteria – the following criteria will be utilized to further evaluate the merits of the water activity proposed for funding from the Statewide Account. In evaluation of proposed water activities, preference will be given to projects that meet one or more criteria from each of the three “tiers” or categories. Each “tier” is grouped in level of importance. For instance, projects that meet Tier 1 criteria will outweigh projects that only meet Tier 3 criteria. The applicant should also refer to the Supplemental Scoring Matrix applied to Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 for Statewide Account requests. WSRA grant requests for projects that may qualify for loans through the CWCB loan program will receive preference in the Statewide Evaluation Criteria if the grant request is part of a CWCB loan/WSRA grant package. For these CWCB loan/WSRA grant packages, the applicant must have a CWCB loan/WSRA grant ratio of 1:1 or higher. Preference will be given to those with a higher loan/grant ratio.

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Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation and Meeting Water Management Goals and Identified Water Needs

- a. The water activity addresses multiple needs or issues, including consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs, or the needs and issues of multiple interests or multiple basins. This can be demonstrated by obtaining letters of support from other basin roundtables (in addition to an approval letter from the sponsoring basin).
- b. The number and types of entities represented in the application and the degree to which the activity will promote cooperation and collaboration among traditional consumptive water interests and/or non-consumptive interests, and if applicable, the degree to which the water activity is effective in addressing intrabasin or interbasin needs or issues.
- c. The water activity helps implement projects and processes identified as helping meet Colorado's future water needs, and/or addresses the gap areas between available water supply and future need as identified in SWSI or a roundtable's basin-wide water needs assessment.

Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation

- d. Funding from this Account will reduce the uncertainty that the water activity will be implemented. For this criterion the applicant should discuss how receiving funding from the Account will make a significant difference in the implementation of the water activity (i.e., how will receiving funding enable the water activity to move forward or the inability obtaining funding elsewhere).
- e. The amount of matching funds provided by the applicant via direct contributions, demonstrable in-kind contributions, and/or other sources demonstrates a significant & appropriate commitment to the project.

Tier 3: The Water Activity Addresses Other Issues of Statewide Value and Maximizes Benefits

- f. The water activity helps sustain agriculture & open space, or meets environmental or recreational needs.
- g. The water activity assists in the administration of compact-entitled waters or addresses problems related to compact entitled waters and compact compliance and the degree to which the activity promotes maximum utilization of state waters.
- h. The water activity assists in the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species or Colorado State species of concern.
- i. The water activity provides a high level of benefit to Colorado in relationship to the amount of funds requested.
- j. The water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

Continued: Explanation of how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**.

Please attach additional pages as necessary.

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Part IV. – Required Supporting Material

1. **Water Rights, Availability, and Sustainability** – This information is needed to assess the viability of the water project or activity. Please provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized, or the water body to be affected by, the water activity. This should include a description of applicable water rights, and water rights issues, and the name/location of water bodies affected by the water activity.

Any project which may come to fruition as a result of this process should be designed to firm existing domestic and agricultural water use and to enhance stream flows. Given limited water availability, it should not promote new uses or any out of basin uses.

2. Please provide a brief narrative of any related studies or permitting issues.

Please see the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Master Plan, written by Tetra Tech, draft September 2014, final due mid-December 2014. For the Table of Contents and Appendices (81 pages), click here:

http://ltwrc.org/LT%20Master%20Plan%20draft_report%20and%20appendices%20A%20B%20D%20E.pdf



Please click on the link below for river-reach-by-river-reach pages (123 pages):

http://ltwrc.org/master_plan_level_1.html

Click on one of the neighborhoods below to see the specific maps and recommended improvements for river reaches in that neighborhood.

REACH	RIVER	DESCRIPTION	MAPS
I	Little Thompson	Milliken/Johnston: Weld County to Interstate 25	1-16
II	Little Thompson	Berthoud: Interstate 25 to Weld-Larimer County Line (County Rd 1)	16-24
III	Little Thompson	Berthoud: Weld-Larimer County Line to Larimer-Boulder County Line	24-38
IV	Little Thompson	Boulder County	38-46
V	Little Thompson	Blue Mountain	46-62
V	North Fork	Blue Mountain	103-123
VI	Little Thompson	Pinewood Springs	63-72
VII	Little Thompson	Headwaters	73-86
VII	West Fork	Big Elk Meadows	87-107

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The Coalition is scheduled with a stakeholder session on Saturday December 13, 2014 at 9:30am in Longmont (at the Boulder County Open Space offices at 5201 St. Vrain Road in Longmont) to receive final input from landowners and stakeholders on the draft Master Plan. Tetra Tech has diligently gathered all the feedback on the draft master plan over the last 3 and a half months by meeting with small groups of individual landowners of affected properties. Stakeholder suggestions have been incorporated to create the draft and are being incorporated into the final version of the Master Plan, our official guiding document for restoration funding.

3. Statement of Work, Detailed Budget, and Project Schedule

The tasks referenced in Overview/Summary (Page 6) in response to Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project, Item 5. are noted here and presented in full in the Statement of Work in Exhibit A, attached.

Tasks to Meet Objectives of the Little Thompson River Water Supply, Use and Planning Study

Agricultural

Identify and Analyze:

1. Total irrigated acreage, large and small (used for crops or other use)
2. Study historic agricultural diversions for surface and groundwater usage
3. Identify impacts of reduced diversion quantities due to drought (i.e., acreage adjustments and any corresponding practice adjustments) due to variation in river flow. Identify the nature and extent of any reduced water deliveries to determine what the issue/s may be
4. Identify the volume of NCWCD water usage and any potential impacts of removing that water (i.e., C-BT water that uses the natural river bed as its delivery system)
5. Determine the volume of water necessary to stabilize irrigated farm production

The following three agricultural water goals are desirable but due to our desire for a modest yet realistic funding request in this application, there are budget constraints for this initial study; that is, we cannot do it all within this limited budget request. Therefore, we do not believe we will be able to include these three items in this scope of work, we simply note them below for your information in understanding our aspirations of what might be included should funds be available for a full basin water budget.

- a) Livestock water use (i.e., CAFOs and grazing lands)
- b) Imported water to the watershed for agricultural use
- c) Detailed and itemized return flow data from agricultural use

Domestic – Municipal Water Providers, Surface Water, Groundwater and Water Diversions

Review Water Portfolios, Source, Service Areas & Anticipated Growth for:

1. Big Elk Meadow, Pinewood Springs and their applicable municipal water providers or districts
2. Plains towns and rural areas in the Little Thompson Water District: Berthoud, Milliken, Johnstown, and other surrounding watershed rural areas; note: LT Water District supplies water below the St. Vrain Supply Canal and we believe there is no domestic water usage beyond that point.
3. Quantify number of exempt and non-exempt wells for developments throughout the watershed, from the plains to the mountains esp. but not limited to those who are not in a water district (Main Stem, Blue Mountain, Rabbit Mountain); how many homes they serve, water usage and any impact on stream flows

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4. Determine volume of water necessary to stabilize domestic water use throughout the Watershed

Another point to examine is the following additional three domestic water supply issues but again, budget constraints likely apply. The bottom line is that we initially need to know the volume of water that is going to solve the existing and future domestic, agricultural and environmental needs of the Watershed to support a reasonable estimate for plans and processes for improvements. So without funding for a full water study, the Coalition has pared down the domestic water needs and have noted these three objectives below for your information.

- a) Research any irrigated lands susceptible to subdivision and/or irrigation improvement
- b) Quantify imported water in all watershed areas and neighborhoods
- c) Detail and itemize return flow data from domestic use

Streamflows/Environmental

Design, Study, Research:

1. Design a stream gauging system and cost estimates to employ with focus on dry reaches
2. Study the volume and timing of water necessary to prevent river dry-ups
3. Research the quantity and timing of unappropriated flow, how it is currently used and any recommendations for better use to maintain flows

Industrial

Research and Document:

1. Identify any existing industrial use since the recent oil and gas boom. Best information at present is that the River has not been used for this purpose; include current and potential leases and sub-leases of water rights; discuss any negative impacts on its historic use (Agriculture, Domestic, Environmental)

Open Space, Conservation Easements and Federal/State Lands that Cannot Be Developed

Identify and Assess:

1. Quantify undeveloped acreage, including federal land, state land, and conservation easements on private lands, and assess any potential additional water usage from the basin or other implications of those lands

The statement of work will form the basis for the contract between the Applicant and the State of Colorado. In short, the Applicant is agreeing to undertake the work for the compensation outlined in the statement of work and budget, and in return, the State of Colorado is receiving the deliverables/products specified. **Please note that costs incurred prior to execution of a contract or purchase order are not subject to reimbursement.** All WSRA funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis after review invoices and appropriate backup material.

Please provide a detailed statement of work using the template in Exhibit A. Additional sections or modifications may be included as necessary. Please define all acronyms and include page numbers.

REPORTING AND FINAL DELIVERABLE

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 statement 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.

PAYMENT

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and invoicing by the applicant. Invoices from any other entity (i.e. subcontractors) cannot be processed by the State. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by major task, and estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire water activity in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues and proposed or implemented corrective actions. The last 10 percent of the entire water activity budget will be withheld until final project/water activity documentation is completed. 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 help promote the development of a common technical platform.

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The above statements are true to the best of my knowledge:

Signature of Applicant:



Print Applicant's Name: Big Thompson Conservation District

Project Title: Little Thompson River Water Supply, Use and Planning Study

Date: December 1, 2014

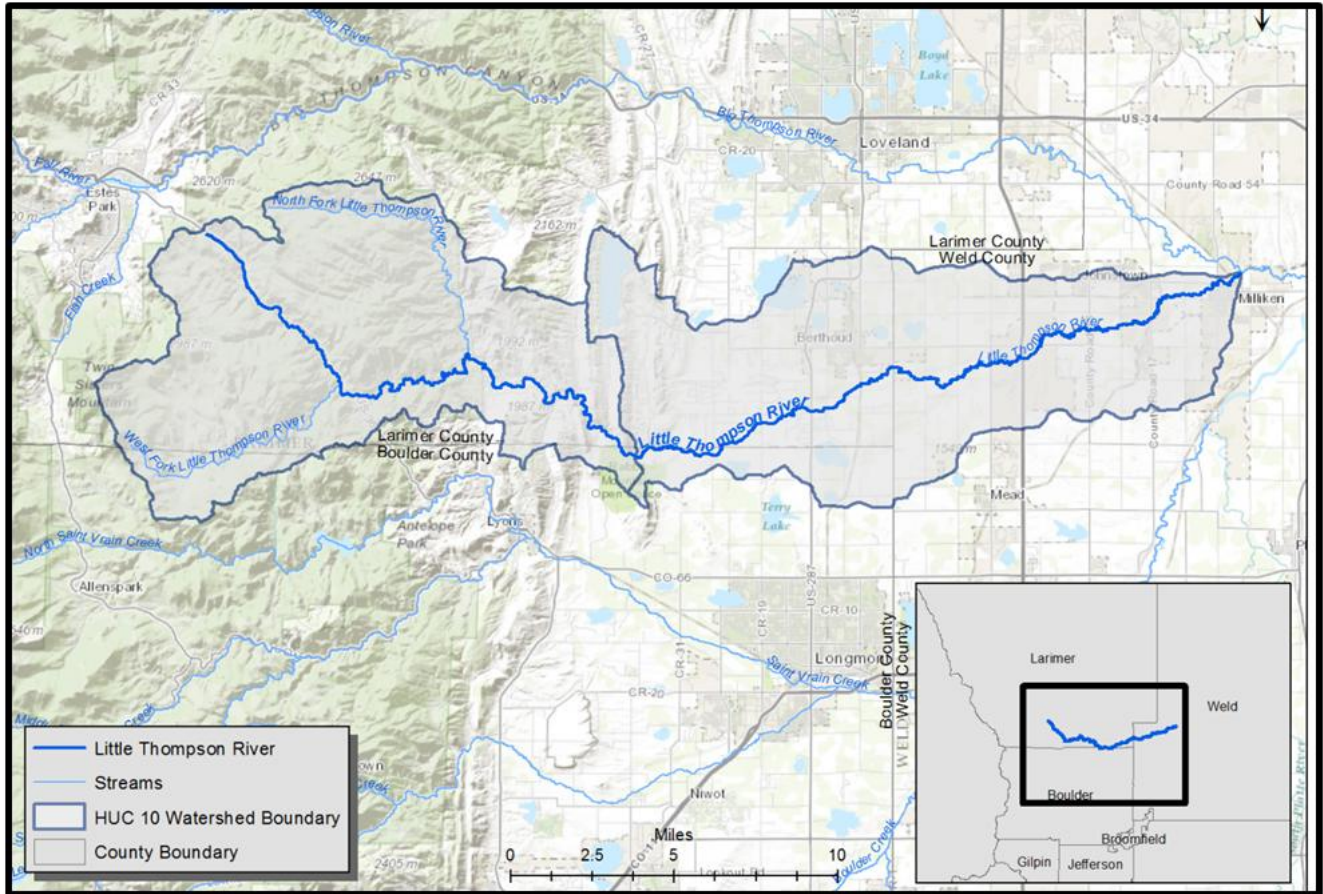
Return an electronic version (hardcopy may also be submitted) of this application to:

Craig Godbout – WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203
303-866-3441, ext. 3210 (office)
303-547-8061 (cell)
craig.godbout@state.co.us

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Exhibit B, Map of the Watershed



Map below: Notable Water Users, Little Thompson Watershed

