

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM



Today's Date: April 9, 2015

Meeting the Rio Grande Basin Roundtables Public Education and Public Outreach Goals

Name of Water Activity/Project

Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative

Name of Applicant

Rio Grande Roundtable

Amount from Statewide Account:

0.00

Amount from Basin Account(s):

\$45,300.00

Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

\$45,300.00

FEIN: 27-1157593

Application Content

Application Instructions Part I – Description of the Applicant Part II – Description of the Water Activity	page 2 page 3
Part III – Threshold and Evaluation Criteria Part IV – Required Supporting Material	page 5 page 7
Water Rights, Availability, and Sustainability Related Studies Signature Page	page 10 page 10 page 12

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)

The project will implement established outreach and education efforts:

- Monthly newspaper articles written by local authorities on a variety of water subjects. (The publishing opportunity is provided to roundtable by both the Valley Courier and Valley Publishing free of charge.)
- Month Radio Programs provided by local topic authorities on a variety of water topics. (The opportunity is provided by KSLV and KRZA free of charge as a public service.)
- Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Webpage (www.riograndewaterplan.com)
- Public Meetings outside of the Rio Grande Roundtable meeting.

In addition to these established practices, the project will also develop:

- A mechanism to create video Vignette's that capture the importance and purpose of the state and basin water plans as well as addressing subjects such as consumptive uses (Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial,), Non-consumptive (Environmental and Recreational), Water Management (Colorado Water Law, Compacts, Well Rules and Regulations and the Subdistrict Process), and the social aspects of water. This vignettes will then be available for use by a variety of constituents. That could include: local and regional governments, community groups, universities and schools and private organizations. The goal would be consistent messaging.
- The project would also create a Project Tours schedule as a public follow-up for all Roundtable funded projects.

3. Is this project	t primarily a study or implementation of a water activity/project? (Please check only one)
	Study Implementation
4. To catalog m	easurable results achieved with WSRA funds can you provide any of the following numbers?
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed, Consumptive or Nonconsumptive (acre-feet)
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
c	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year OR dollars/year - circle one)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Other Explain:

Latitude: 37 to 38.5° N Longitude: 106 to 105° W

5. 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. The project will give solid data that quantifies the benefits of soil health on soil water holding capacity

Overall Water Activity: The purpose is to further the involvement and learning for all Colorado's citizen as we move towards 2050. This request for funding seeks \$43,500.00 to hire a Coordinator to manage these three year outreach and education activities within the Rio Grande Basin. This Coordinator will design, implement, and administer outreach and education activities and serve as a liaison to the IBCC and PEPO work groups, and the Coordinators in other Basins. This project will showcase the collaborative work of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable education committee and that of water users of all types across the Rio Grande Basin. This initiative will work to recognize the value of Colorado's water and communicate this value by making it readily identifiable to all community members. The project will continue long established newspaper articles and radio interviews. The funds will support the upkeep and maintenance of Rio Grande Basin Roundtable webpage, which is a critical piece in this information network. Because the stakeholders in the Rio Grande live in a rural, headwaters community that are facing several critical water issues they, like other rural basins, need to stay informed. The webpage provides that information connection. Project tours will be an additional cog to this information network. These hands-on tours help ensure that there is a connection between constituents and water funding. Finally, the production of nine video vignettes (3 per year for 3 years). The funds will provide a cost share to entities to produce professional videos. These vignettes will capture the importance and purpose of the state and basin water plans as well as addressing subjects such as consumptive uses, Non-consumptive uses, Water Management and the social aspects of water. This vignettes will then be available for use by a variety of constituents. That could include: local and regional governments, community groups, universities and schools and private organizations. The goal would be consistent messaging.

Use of Funds: RGWCEI is requesting \$45,300.00 over three years from WSRA basin account funds. WSRA funds are 29% of the total project cost of \$156,000.00. Matching funds are as follows: \$24,000.00 or 15% from the RGWCEI; \$27,000.00 or 17% Vignette match; \$59,700 or 39% from In-kind services.

Part III. - Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

- 1. <u>Describe how</u> 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.

This water activity is educational in nature. It in no way affects the current system of allocating water within Colorado nor does it diminish, impair or cause injury to any property or contractual right created by intergovernmental agreements, contracts, stipulations, etc. nor does it impair or limit or otherwise affect any persons or entities relating to the appropriation, movement, or use of water.

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.

This information is included in the letter from the Rio Grande Roundtable Chair, Mike Gibson, accompanying this proposal.

a) The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes. 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.

This request for funding is specifically for water education and public outreach. It furthers the Rio

¹ 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.

Grande Roundtable's basin-wide water needs by building on the momentum created by projects such as "Water 2012", Narrow the Gap and the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan. This initiative continues the public education process and continues the roundtables education priorities of striving for knowledge, educate future generations, and build a solid base of public understanding of the complex issues involved in meeting the States future water needs.

As indicated in the WSRA Funding Legislative Criteria, HB 05-1177 (37-75-104), 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." The value and potential effectiveness of this public feedback function depends on how well people understand and can articulate and deal with the issues. By funding the educational work of RGWCEI, the Rio Grande Roundtable will strongly support the statewide water education mission which is to narrow Colorado's water gap, while also outlining the challenges and the sense of urgency the state faces as we move ahead to 2050. The purpose of this proposal is to participate in efforts to further involvement and learning for all Colorado's citizens, and provide focused efforts which target constituents in the Rio Grande Basin. Activities will be branded for public appeal using the "Narrow the Gap Campaign". This meets the legislative imperative that the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable "(d) serve as a forum for education and debate regarding methods for meeting water supply needs." It also opens the Roundtable to greater and better-informed public participation so that it can, "(e) as needed, establish roundtable subcommittees or other mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and resolution of issues and conflicts within the basin."

Summary: More than 75% of RGWCEI's activities are directly related to water, with educational activities involving exploring and sharing concepts, ethics, principles, and curricula directly related to meeting the consumptive and non-consumptive water needs of the San Luis Valley and the Rio Grande Basin. The Rio Grande Basin Decision Support System lists as a goal "to promote information sharing among government agencies and water users." The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable education committee prioritizes education among its alternative nonstructural options. "

The Rio Grande Basin Education and Outreach Committee:

1.	Mike Gibson	RT Chair
2.	Judy Lopez	RT PEPO representative and Education Liaison
3.	Rio de la Vista	RT Vice-chair
4.	Nathan Coombs	RT Member
5.	Travis Smith	RT Member
6.	Cindy Medina	RT Member
7.	Steve Vandiver	RT Member
8.	Heather Dutton	RT Member
9.	Eugene Jacquez	RT Member
10.	Emma Rieger	Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
11.	Kevin Terry	Trout Unlimited
12.	Paul Tigen	BLM

b) 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)

RGWCEI is requesting \$45,300.00 over three years from WSRA basin account funds. WSRA funds are 29% of the total project cost of \$156,000.00. Matching funds are as follows: \$24,000.00 or 15% from the RGWCEI; \$27,000.00 or 17% Vignette match; \$59,700 or 39% from In-kind services.

2. For Applications that include a request for funds from the **Statewide Account**, <u>describe how</u> 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.

 This Project only requests Rio Grande Basin funds, so this grant application requirement does not apply.

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

- 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.
- O This Project includes a matching component of 98% of Total Project Costs. This amount is currently committed and in place, as described in the Budget.

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.

Part IV. - Required Supporting Material

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.

No water supply source will be utilized and no water body will be affected by this water and natural resource conservation education activity. This project does not affect any water rights.

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.

(Exhibit A follows the signature page)

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.

Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form Revised October 2013

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

Signature of Applicant:

Judith Lopez Executive Director, Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative

Print Applicant's Name: Judy Lopez, Program Director, Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative

Project Title: Meeting the Rio Grande Basin Roundtables Public Education and Public Outreach Goals

Public Education and Public Outreach Goals

Date: April 14,2015

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

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

_____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

Exhibit A

WATER ACTIVITY NAME -- Meeting the Rio Grande Basin Roundtables Public Education and Public Outreach Goals

GRANT RECIPIENT - Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative

FUNDING SOURCE - \$45,300.00 Rio Grande Basin Account (No Statewide funds requested)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

The Rio Grande Watershed encompasses 7,828,451 acres, approximately 27% of which are farm and crop lands, 13% rangeland, 28% privately held acreages and 32% public lands. RGWCEI is the successor organization, which has taken over the conservation education activities of the Rio Grande Watershed Association of Conservation Districts (RGWACD), a grass roots community organization, which is not incorporated, but consists of various members of natural resources, conservation, and basin-wide watershed groups. RGWCEI now has full responsibility to administer, fund, and expand conservation and education activities throughout the Rio Grande Basin.

RGWCEI offers both education and conservation programs to youth, young adults, landowners and agricultural producers. The producer programs that we have sponsored were to address the San Luis Valley's declining aquifer issues that have occurred since 2002. These programs partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the development and administration of the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) and the Targeted Conservation Proposal (TCP). Each of these multi-year programs focused on implementing soil and water conservation within the farm unit, and collectively brought 4.2 million to the Rio Grande Basin.

Over the past 8 years RGWCEI has taken the lead in Roundtable outreach efforts and in collaboration with the roundtable education subcommittee has established a comprehensive education and outreach program. These outreach efforts have been recognized by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and its constituents and as a result the Rio Grande Basins efforts are among the best in the state. RGWCEI under the direction of Judy Lopez, and the basin education committee, they have worked to expand knowledge, improve educational resources, and increase public understanding in a variety of Colorado Water Conservation Board outreach initiatives to include the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan and the Colorado Water Plan.

The Purpose: The Water Plan process has established the need for, and the importance of, ongoing education and outreach as it pertains to all water concerns. "Article VII of the Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) by-laws address the formation of workgroups to assist it in its deliberations and functions. The Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) workgroup is charged with

creating a process to inform, involve, and educate the public on the IBCC's activities and progress of the interbasin compact negotiations, and create a mechanism by which public input and feedback can be relayed to the IBCC and compact negotiators. It is the only workgroup written into the legislation (C.R.S. 37-75-106)."

As a result of these processes the Rio Grande basin Roundtable is charged with providing ongoing education and outreach for the roundtable. The purpose of this project is to further the involvement and learning for all Colorado's citizen as we move towards 2050. This request for funding seeks \$25,300.00 to hire a Coordinator to manage these three year outreach and education activities within the Rio Grande Basin. This Coordinator will design, implement, and administer outreach and education activities and serve as a liaison to the IBCC and PEPO work groups, and the Coordinators in other Basins. This project will showcase the collaborative work of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable education committee and that of water users of all types across the Rio Grande Basin. This initiative will work to recognize the value of Colorado's water and communicate this value by making it readily identifiable to all community members. The project will continue long established newspaper articles and radio interviews.

The funds will support the upkeep and maintenance of Rio Grande Basin Roundtable webpage, which is a critical piece in this information network. Because the stakeholders in the Rio Grande live in a rural, headwaters community that are facing several critical water issues they, like other rural basins, need to stay informed. The webpage provides that information connection. Project tours will be an additional cog to this information network. These hands-on tours help ensure that there is a connection between constituents and water funding. Finally, the production of nine video vignettes (3 per year for 3 years). The funds will provide a cost share to entities to produce professional videos. These vignettes will capture the importance and purpose of the state and basin water plans as well as addressing subjects such as consumptive uses, Non-consumptive uses, Water Management and the social aspects of water. This vignettes will then be available for use by a variety of constituents. That could include: local and regional governments, community groups, universities and schools and private organizations. The goal would be consistent messaging. The purpose of this project is to continue these efforts over the next three years. RGWCEI is asking for \$45,300.00 over three years from WSRA basin account funds. WSRA funds are 29% of the total project cost of \$156,000.00. Matching funds are as follows: \$24,000.00 or 15% from the RGWCEI; \$27,000.00 or 17% Vignette match; \$59,700 or 39% from In-kind services.

Complete Budget By Task

			,	,			$\ \ ^{\epsilon}$		$\ \ $		
Project Tasks	Year 1": 2014 -15	match	7 ear 2": 2015-16	3; 2016-17	Total	VSRA	E .	RT Vignette	Vignette RGVCE		Total
Task 1: Current Outreach and Education									-	Farthers	
Monthly Newspaper Articles		18,000			15,000					THE REAL PROPERTY.	18,000
Radio Shows		1,200									7,200
Shade A	2,500	1,500	2,500	2,500		1,500	7,500				15,000
TotalTackij	2,500	32,700	2,500	2,500	40,200	7,500				25.200	000 UF
Task 2: Water Video Vignettes											no in
Production of three video per year on a variety of water topics as brought to the Education Committee. There is a cost share for these by the organisation. WSRA funds will be used as cost share.	009'9	27,000	6,600	6,600		19,800		27,000			46,800
Total Task 2	9,600	27,000	6,600	9,600	46,800	19,800		27,000			46 800
Task 3: Public Engagement											onoine
Partner Outreach Meeting		9,000			Olive						9000
Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Project Tours	1,000	18,000	1,000	1,000		3,000					21,000
Total Task 3	1,000	27,000	1,000	1,000	30,000	3,000			•	27.000	30,000
fask 4: PEPO Outcomes											
Project development, implementation and administration	2,000	24,000	2,000	2,000	000%	6,000			24,000		39,000
Total Task 8	2,000	24,000	5,000	2,000	39,000	15,000			24,000		33,000
TOTAL	\$ 15,100	nann 1	15,100	\$ 15,100 \$ 156,000	\$ 156,000	\$ 45,300	\$ 7,500	\$ 27,000		\$ 24,000 \$ 52,200	\$ 156,000
				Percent of Project Cost	oject Cost	23%	**	11%		34%	1002

Summary of Project Budget

Summary Budget for Meeting the Rio Grande Basin Roundtables Public Education and Public Outreach Goals Project	leeting the l	io Grande Ba	asin Roundtable	s Public Educat	ion and Public	Outreach Go	als Project	
Project Tasks		Total						
			WSRA	Match	RT Partners	Vignette Partners	RGWCEI	lotal
Task 1: Current Outreach and Education		40,200	7,500	7,500		25,200		40,200
Task 2: Water Video Vignettes		46,800	19,800	000'22				46,800
Task 3: Public Engagement		30,000	3,000		27,000		•	30,000
Task 4: PEPO Outcomes		39,000	15,000	24,000				39,000
	TOTAL \$	156,000	\$ 45,300	\$ 58,500	\$ 27,000 \$ 25,200	\$ 25,200	•	- \$ 156,000
	Percent of	Percent of ProJect Cost	29%	71%			%	100%

Project Schedule

