

Metro Roundtable

Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) Program Guidelines

Approved July 2015

Metro Basin Roundtable (MRT) Priorities:

- Maximize Implementation of Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs). Priority will be given to IPPs that provide a yield for the Metro area or reduce the Metro area M&I Gap as well as those serving other parts of the South Platte Basin that significantly leverages other funding for implementation.
- Implement conservation and reuse projects and programs in the Metro area or significantly leverage other funding for conservation and reuse in other parts of the South Platte Basin.
- Implement multi-purpose storage projects. Priority will be given to storage projects that provide a yield for Metro area and South Platte Basin water providers.
- Implement efforts that improve federal and state permitting processes without diminishing environmental protections.
- Implement projects or programs that protect and enhance environmental and recreational attributes. Priority will be given to projects or programs in focus areas in the BIP that are in the Metro area. Other priorities will be to implement endangered species programs, or programs to prevent the listing of threatened species in the South Platte Basin, as well as projects or programs in other focus areas in the BIP.
- Implement projects, programs, or studies that continue to investigate, preserve, and develop new Colorado River Basin supplies.
- Implement projects that maximize use of existing South Platte Basin water supplies including groundwater.
- Implement projects or programs that promote and advance Alternative Transfer Methods in lieu of “buy and dry”.
- Research new technologies and strategies to utilize lesser quality water supplies.
- Implement projects or programs that manage the risks of climate change.
- Implement communications and outreach programs on water projects and issues in the Metro area and South Platte Basin.

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Program Summary

How/Where to Apply?	http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Pages/StatewideWaterSupplyReserveAccountGrants.aspx
Eligible Entities	Government, Districts, Private Incorporated, Non-governmental organizations
Match Requirements	25%

Background

Colorado's growth and development as a state are intertwined with water. Development and management of water is complex, controversial and at times contentious. Decisions regarding water have become increasingly complex as Colorado has experienced both unprecedented population growth and a greater emphasis on multiple uses of this precious resource.

To facilitate discussions on water management issues and encourage locally driven collaborative solutions, nine basin roundtables were established by the [Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act](#). These roundtables represent each of the state's eight major river basins and the Denver metropolitan area.

The Metro Roundtable (MRT) is the only roundtable not designated out of a natural hydrological river basin. The Metro region's unique needs and water uses necessitated its designation apart from the South Platte River Basin (within which it lies). In 2010, the Denver Metro region had more than 2.6 million residents – about half of the state's population – and by 2050, this number is expected to increase to 4.1 million residents.

Nearly two-thirds of the increase in the state gross municipal and industrial (M&I) demand for water by 2030 – will be in the overall South Platte Basin (a combination of the MRT and the [South Platte Basin Roundtable](#) areas).

The MRT WSRA Program is designed to help meet this demand by funding projects and processes that are consistent with the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, including but not limited to:

- Maximize Implementation of Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs). Priority will be given to IPPs that provide a yield for the Metro area or reduce the Metro area M&I Gap as well as those serving other parts of the South Platte Basin that significantly leverages other funding for implementation.
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Funding Source

The Water Supply Reserve Account authorizing legislation (SB 06-179) created an account to help citizens identify and meet their critical water supply needs and provides funds for a broad range of eligible activities. SB09-106 reauthorized the program in perpetuity and appropriates \$10 million annually for the fund, subject to available funding. In recent years, total funding has ranged between \$4 million and \$10 million.

Account funds are divided between statewide and basin funds. The statewide account provides funding for projects that are of statewide significance. Approximately 60% of total available funding is awarded through the statewide account. The remaining funds, approximately 40%, are divided equally among the nine roundtable areas, providing approximately \$450,000 annually for projects of importance within the roundtable area.

Purpose

The Metro Roundtable (MRT) has actively developed several projects by leveraging funds from the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA). It is the goal of these WSRA Account Grant Guidelines to:

- Provide documented guidelines and procedures for WSRA grant applications, suitable for the needs of the MRT and consistent with the CWCB guidelines, and help maximize applicant success of meeting the information needs of the MRT in pursuit of WSRA grants from both the statewide and/or basin accounts.
- Provide a mechanism to aid grant applicants in understanding the requirements of the WSRA grant application process and allow the MRT Needs Committee to provide feedback to applicants in order to align projects with Metro area needs and strengthen the applications.
- Provide an evaluation methodology that gives the greatest preference to projects that support the principles and goals of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP). Provide the opportunity for the MRT to evaluate grant applications with more thorough consideration of the suitability of the project for the Metro Area. The MRT Needs Committee may actively seek grant proposals that meet the MRT’s top priority goals.

MRT Vision

These guidelines are intended to create structure around the WSRA funding request approval process in such a way that will promote applications that best address the consumptive and environmental and recreational needs of the Metro area.

As a majority of Colorado's M&I gap is expected to occur in the South Platte Basin, the MRT believes that efforts to meet M&I demands should continue to be a high priority for the basin. The MRT also believes that efforts to close the projected M&I gap should be done in a way that ensures to the greatest extent possible the long-term sustainability of the Basin's agriculture and natural environment, both for their own sake and for the beneficial economies, open space, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation activities that agriculture and a healthy environment support.

The MRT wishes to encourage WSRA grant-funded projects of statewide and local basin significance to address existing and future M&I demands while also meeting goals related to the long-term sustainability of agricultural economies and the natural environment. As such, all projects seeking to receive favorable grant consideration by the MRT should be able to demonstrate how their project will encourage collaboration while providing multiple benefit projects or studies and planning efforts that meet the [MRT Priorities](#).

It is important for WSRA Grant applicants to understand that MRT members are focused on delivering on-the-ground solutions to the M&I gap, but doing so in a manner that lessens the negative impacts to agriculture, the environment, and recreation. To date, several multiple benefit projects have been approved and developed by the MRT. Of course, the MRT recognizes that not all individual projects can accomplish these ambitious goals. Therefore, projects that only meet one or two of the needs will be considered according to their contribution to the basin and statewide goals for meeting future water demand.

The roundtable is committed to demonstrating the value of non-consumptive projects by fulfilling this directive.

Eligible Entities

In order to be eligible for MRT grants, applicants must be registered business entities legally conducting business in Colorado, municipal corporations, Title 32 water and sanitation districts, or other city, state or local governmental or quasi-governmental entities. "Private", meaning private individuals, partnerships and sole proprietors are not eligible for Statewide WSRA funds (though may apply for Basin funds) and must either organize a legal entity to manage the project and apply for funds, or work through an eligible agency to be the fiscal agent.

Call for Projects

The MRT Needs Committee will provide information on the MRT WSRA process, and at times, actively seek applicants or projects that are designated as MRT top priorities. The MRT Needs Committee will be happy to answer any specific questions a prospective applicant may have prior to their application submittal. The MRT Needs Committee can be reached through the Committee Chair, Tim Murrell, at tmurrell@douglas.co.us

Match Requirements

Applications for Basin Funds – The CWCB does not dictate a specific amount of match for basin projects. However, the MRT recommends at least 25% match for basin funds, from either cash or in-kind contributions. Applicants should be able to accurately describe how they will account for in-kind match.

Applications for Statewide Funds – Statewide applications must provide at least 25% match from either cash or in-kind sources. At least 5% of the 25% match must come from the sponsoring roundtable's basin account.

How to Apply

1. Review the Water Supply Reserve Account Grant Criteria and Guidelines, and the Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 Supplemental Scoring Matrix, which are available on the CWCB website.
2. The applicant will provide a short (no more than a two-page) summary of the project that includes elements outlined elsewhere, which address how the project addresses the Program Guidelines.
3. The applicant must provide a short presentation (5-10 minutes) to the MRT at least one month prior to the time that they seek WSRA grant approval from the MRT. This provides the entire MRT the opportunity to learn more about the application and ask questions related to the grant request. The presentation must be scheduled through the MRT Needs Committee at least two weeks prior to the MRT meeting at which the presentation is requested to occur. All attempts will be made to provide the opportunity to present at the MRT meeting requested but may be limited to a certain number of applicants based on meeting agenda constraints. Applicants can reach the Committee through the Chair, Tim Murrell, at tmurrell@douglas.co.us
4. After the initial presentation the MRT will decide whether the grant request sufficiently meets their priorities. Assuming the MRT decides the grant request should move forward, and there are available MRT WSRA funds, the Applicant must provide a completed grant application to the Needs Committee. At this stage there is no guarantee that the Applicant's grant will be approved but is a significant hurdle to final approval. The Needs Committee will then coordinate with the MRT Chair to schedule time on a future meeting agenda (next regularly scheduled meeting where possible) to seek MRT final approval.
5. Submit the Grant Application form (Word or text-enabled PDF), statement of work, budget and schedule by the first of the month proceeding the month of a CWCB Board meeting via email to the CWCB's Water Supply Planning Section. Electronic applications can also be mailed to: Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Planning Section WSRA Application 1580
Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203
6. Work with CWCB staff to address any issues or additional information needed prior to CWCB Board review.
7. Submit W-9 and Insurance Certificate form, if requested.

Applicants may also seek Statewide Funds. Statewide Funds, which are administered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), require approval by the MRT and by the CWCB Board.

More information about WSRA Statewide Funds can be found here: [\(link\)](#)

<http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account->

[grants/Pages/StatewideWaterSupplyReserveAccountGrants.aspx](#).

An applicant must apply and receive Basin Funds (at least 5% of total grant request), and request a letter of support from the MRT, to qualify for Statewide Funds. Because of this requirement, the Basin Fund and Statewide Fund application schedules were aligned.

	Summer	Winter
CWCB Award Decision	September	March

Reports to the Roundtable Following Grant Award and Contracting

The CWCB will require a written report regarding contract progress and project status. The applicant will submit reports to the CWCB and also provide the report to the MRT Needs Committee. The applicant will coordinate with the MRT Chairperson to provide an update no less than once annually beginning six months from the date of the notice to proceed.