

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 16-17, 2016
Agenda Item 14(s)

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative (RGWCEI)

Water Activity Name: Implementing Public Education and Public Outreach in the Rio Grande River Basin: Education to Implement

Water Activity Purpose: Education

County: Multiple throughout Rio Grande

Drainage Basin: Rio Grande

Water Source: Rio Grande River and tributaries

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$90,000 Rio Grande Basin Account

Matching Funds: Applicant & 3rd Party Match (\$7,500 cash; \$42,000 in-kind)
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$90,000 from the Rio Grande Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Implementing Public Education and Public Outreach in the Rio Grande River Basin: Education to Implement Project.

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved, will be expended to provide funding to hire a Coordinator to manage a three year outreach and education effort within the Rio Grande Basin. The coordinator will implement, and administer outreach and education activities under direction of the PEPO and the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Education Committee. The objectives of this effort are to: 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; begin a mentoring program that will pave a pathway for younger community members to engage with the water community and to provide them with an opportunity to step forward and become water leaders; continue long established newspaper articles, the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable webpage and radio interviews; project tours to provide a connection between constituents and water project funding, and produce nine video vignettes. Targeted audiences for the vignettes may include: local and regional governments; universities and schools, and private organizations

Discussion: This project aligns with well with the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan's Basin Goal #8: *Establish a long-term education and outreach effort for water use and needs in the San Luis Valley/Rio Grande Basin* (Chapter 3, page 59). This effort is also specified as a Project and Method to meet the Basin's needs and goals (Chapter 6.5: Other Projects and Methods; Table 10; #5: Basin-wide Water Public Education Program; page 156). In addition this effort advances Outreach, Education and Public Engagement goals (CWP Chapter 9.5, pages 9-53 thru 9-61) and the Measurable Objectives and Adaptive Management goals of Colorado's Water Plan (CWP Chapter 10.2, page 10-5 thru 10-7), such as: H. Education, Outreach, and Innovation.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria: The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria: n/a

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
RGWCEI	\$7,500	\$27,000	\$34,500
RGBRT Partners ⁽¹⁾	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
Subtotal matching funds	\$7,500	\$42,000	\$49,500
WSRA Rio Grande Basin Account	\$90,000	n/a	\$90,000
Total Project Costs	\$97,500	\$42,000	\$139,500

(1) RGBRT Partners include: USFS, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado DWR, CPW, BLM, NRCS, & NPS.

CWCB Project Manager: Craig Godbout

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 will help promote the development of a common technical platform. In accordance with the revised WSRA Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements. The specific requirements are provided below.

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 scope 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.

Engineering: All engineering work (as defined in the Engineers Practice Act (§12-25-102(10) C.R.S.)) performed under this grant shall be performed by or under the responsible charge of professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.