



# COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



## WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM

Today's Date:

CAWA Agricultural Water Workshop

### Name of Water Activity/Project

Colorado Ag Water Alliance

### Name of Applicant

South Platte Basin

Amount from Statewide Account:

0

Amount from Basin Account(s):

\$2,550

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

\$2,550

### Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

*(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)*

FEIN:

### Application Content

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

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

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### **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 (CWCB). 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 CWCB 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 CWCB 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](mailto: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](mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us).

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

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

1.	Applicant Name(s):	Colorado Ag Water Alliance		
	Mailing address:	822 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> St #210 Greeley, CO 80631		
	FEIN #:			
	Primary Contact:	Greg Peterson	Position/Title:	
	Email:	petersongap@comcast.net		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 720-244-4629	Office:	
	Alternate Contact:	Charlie Bartlett	Position/Title:	CAWA Chair
	Email:	cbartlet@aol.com		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 970-522-9302	Office:	

### 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.

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

---

3. Provide a brief description of your organization

The Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA), is an association of agricultural organizations that represent a variety of producers across the state and in the South Platte Basin. CAWA aims to disseminate information so that producers can make better choices in regard to Colorado's water resources.

CAWA has advanced education efforts for agriculture and non-agriculture audiences to advocate for the agricultural sector. Under the current conditions, water resources will continue to transfer from agriculture to municipalities, and CAWA is committed to preserving Colorado agricultural water on a long-term basis. We have worked to advance knowledge concerning water issues facing the agricultural sector in Colorado. A lot of attention has been devoted to water conservation and increasing irrigation efficiency. We have worked to better communicate the legal, physical, and economic factors that constrain farmers who are trying to conserve water to be transferred for other uses. It is necessary to specify what agricultural water can be conserved and transferred and what cannot, especially when there is a significant water supply gap to be met. CAWA has also partnered with the Arkansas Basin Roundtable, hosting a workshop that discussed the full economic benefits that are derived from agricultural water use to avoid the "buy and dry." This work has allowed us to better explore the true value of irrigation water in agriculture and generate knowledge among farmers about specialty cropping and how to prevent agricultural dry up.

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

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.

(none)

## **Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form**

Revised October 2013

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## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

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### 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

Explain:

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

This project is educational but addresses agricultural issues such as irrigation efficiency and agricultural water conservation.

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

☐ Study

☒ Implementation

4. To catalog measurable 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)

Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year OR dollars/year – **circle one**)

Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)

☒ Other -- Explain:

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

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

Latitude:

Longitude:

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.

**Conservation Outreach Activity:** This request for funding seeks \$2,550 to run a day-long workshop in the South Platte Basin for agricultural producers and professionals interested in agricultural water conservation. The focus of his meeting will be about the finalized Colorado Water Plan and a “Use it or lose it” component that discusses misconceptions and issues about the implications of agricultural water conservation in Colorado. This project will require an event coordinator to organize and implement a day-long workshop at Morgan County Fairgrounds in Brush. The budget will include food, event materials, and accommodations for speakers.

**Focus on Water:** The event coordinator will link issues surrounding irrigation efficacy and the roll-out of the finalized Colorado Water plan as it pertains to agricultural water issues. The workshop will focus on issues that are parallel to the South Platte Roundtable’s Basin-wide vision of keeping a sustainable balance between limited water supplies and tomorrow’s growing water demands. As stated in the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, it is necessary to “recognize the importance of ag to Colorado’s future well-being, and support continued success and develop new voluntary measures to sustain agriculture.” Like CAWA, it is the goal of the South Platte Basin Roundtable to “support strategies that reduce traditional permanent dry-up of irrigated acreage through implementations of other solutions including conservation.”

**Raising Public Understanding:** Conservation of water in the agricultural sector is a complicated and necessary issue that needs better understanding among Colorado citizens. There is a lot of potential to increase irrigation efficiency but it is essential to understand the consequences on water right holders, and what kind of agricultural water can actually be conserved for other uses. Including producers and other water professionals in this conversation can help us better understand what options are available for agricultural conservation that won’t negatively affect water-right holders.

**Need for Funding:** All positions in CAWA are non-paid positions, with all participation being voluntary. The organization does not have a yearly source of funding and the majority of our budget comes from registration fees for the Colorado Ag Water Summit which occur every few years. Even though CAWA could charge attendees to join this workshop, we feel that greater participation is necessary on issues of agricultural water efficiency and do not want to discourage any producers from attending.

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

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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.<sup>1</sup>

**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 BRT's 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 proposal is still under review by the South Platte Basin Roundtable.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.



## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

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- c) The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes.<sup>2</sup> 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 outreach. It furthers the South Platte Roundtable's ongoing basin-wide water needs assessment process by creating an informed public. It also helps to build a solid base of public understanding of the complex issues involved with meeting one of the major strategic guidelines for the basin:

- Minimize adverse impacts to agriculture

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 person 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 in the South Platte Basin understand and engage with the issues. By funding the education and outreach work of CAWA, the South Platte Roundtable will strongly support the goals of the basin and working to close the Ag water gap. This meets the legislative imperative that the South Platte 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.”

CAWA educates Colorado producers and the general public on water issues that relate to the agricultural sector. This will be the same for the 2016 water workshop, which will emphasize issues around agricultural water conservation and the Colorado Water Plan, while outlining the challenges that faces Colorado agriculture as we move towards 2050. The South Platte Watershed has the highest amount of irrigated land of any basin in the state with 831,000 acres in the South Platte Basin and an additional 550,000 acres in the Republican River Basin. Irrigated agriculture makes up 85% of total water diversions in the basin (BIP) and total South Platte agricultural sales totaled \$5.8 billion in 2012 (source). However, there is already a current agricultural gap. As the irrigation season progresses, the consumptive use of crops is limited by supply. The actual consumptive use during these times is smaller than the irrigated water requirements and reflects the deficit condition that already exists throughout of

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

the basin. SWSI 2010 estimates a current agricultural gap of the South Platte and Republican basins of 579,000 AFY. Both basins are projected to have increasing population, and municipal and agricultural demand by 2050, with the shortage of agricultural water rising to 1,722,000 AFY.

Conservation and mitigating permeant transfer of water rights from agriculture to municipalities, can both help the basin close the current and projected gap in water supplies. The work done by CAWA has focused on how the Agricultural community can do their part in conservation. However, it is necessary to have a better understanding of what kind of agricultural waters can be conserved, and how conservation affects issues such as abandonment and calculating historical consumptive use. The more producers and citizens who understand the details of this issue, the more we are able to resolve questions about agricultural water conservation and encourage water users to voluntary conserve.

- 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)

(Funds are requested from Basin funds only)

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.**

(Funds are requested from Basin funds only)

**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.

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

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

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- 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.**

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

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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.

**Now 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.**

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

Through the CWCB grant program, CAWA published the report “Meeting Colorado’s Future Water Supply Needs; Opportunities and Challenges Associated with Potential Agricultural Water Conservation Measures” (2008). The report presented an analysis of current scientific literature and the administrative precedents in Colorado to identify the opportunities and challenges associated with irrigation water conservation and foster dialogue and a greater understanding of the challenges facing irrigated agriculture in Colorado.

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

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.

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

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

**Signature of Applicant:**

**Print Applicant's Name:** Gregory Peterson

**Project Title:** CAWA Ag Water Workshop

**Date:**

**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](mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us)