

**Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program**  
**Water Activity Summary Sheet**  
**March 22-23, 2017**  
**Agenda Item 24(c)**

**Applicant & Grantee:** John McConnell Math and Science Center

**Water Activity Name:** Advancing K-12 Water Education in Western Colorado

**Water Activity Purpose:** Education Implementation (Water Exhibit)

**County:** Mesa

**Drainage Basin:** Colorado

**Water Source:** N/A

**Amount Requested:** \$25,000 Colorado Basin Account \*

**Matching Funds:** Applicant Match = \$5,475,000

- 21,900% of the Basin Account request (meets 25% min)
- 99.5% of the total project cost of \$5.5 million

\*NOTE: The applicant decided to revoke a statewide WSRF request of \$100K until a later date, attributing to the discrepancy between the Roundtable Chair Recommendation Letter and application materials which were updated to reflect this change.

<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Colorado Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Advancing K-12 Water Education in Western Colorado.

**Water Activity Summary:** WSRF grant funds, if approved, will contribute to the capital campaign of the John McConnell Math and Science Center's new and expanded facility on the Colorado Mesa University campus. The new center will include classrooms and a world class exhibit hall, including a permanent 400 ft<sup>2</sup> interactive water exhibit. In recognition of this gift, the Center would like to put the Colorado Basin Roundtable and the CWCB's name on the hydrology exhibit in honor of the investment in the new facility. As the focal point of the building, the interactive water table with multiple hands-on tanks would receive more than 15,000 visitors a year and demonstrate principles of hydrology, river dynamics, water cycle, agriculture and municipal use, conservation, and water law for kids and parents of all ages to enjoy and learn. The Colorado Basin Roundtable's investment in this project would allow the Center to house other exhibits demonstrating principles of math, life, earth and physical science as they relate to water; offer classroom space; provide additional school field trips from within and outside the Grand Valley for guided exploration; and expand hydrologic education and outreach including after-school programs, camps, community events, and seminars.

**Discussion:** As described in the Colorado Basin Roundtable Chair's Recommendation Letter, this project was unanimously supported. The McConnell Center is also asking the other three West Slope Roundtables for \$25k and may potentially apply for a WSRF Statewide Account request of \$100k. If all asks are successful, that would be a \$200k WSRF contribution for a \$5.5 million project.

The Colorado Basin Roundtable’s Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and Education Action Plan (EAP) include the statement that the Roundtable will “explore opportunities to connect with a broader segment of the population through new initiatives, including ‘enhancing K-12 water education opportunities, both inside and beyond the classroom.’” This project will directly respond to those objectives and meet broader educational goals as parents accompany students in exploring the water exhibit. Signage in the new facility will point visitors to understanding components of the Colorado Water Plan (CWP), the IBCC, and the Colorado BIP and EAP. This project also assists in satisfying CWP’s Critical Goals and Actions as identified in *Chapter 10.3.H: Education, Outreach, and Innovation* by creatively engaging Coloradans in issues surrounding the state’s water future.

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

**Eligibility Requirements:** The application meets requirements of the three subsections of the Eligibility Requirements: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, and Water Activity Eligibility.

**Funding Match Requirements:** This application meets the Basin Account Matching requirements.

**Evaluation Criteria:** This activity has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to Basin Roundtable Chair’s Recommendation Letter and the WSRF Grant Application for applicant’s detailed response.

**Funding Summary / Matching Funds:**

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-Kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Funds Committed*	\$1,600,000	\$0	\$1,600,000
Funds Pending	\$3,875,000	\$0	\$3,875,000
WSRA Colorado Basin Account	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$5,500,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,500,000</b>

*\*including \$65k from Ute Water; \$100k from Grand Valley Power*

**CWCB Project Manager:** Megan Holcomb

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. Information will 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 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements specified 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:** The applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report summarizing project completion that may contain photographs, meeting summaries, and engineering reports.

**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 a professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice engineering.