

**Yampa/White/Green River  
Basin Roundtable Meeting  
Draft Agenda  
Wednesday November 9, 2016  
Clarion Inn  
300 South CO Highway 13,  
Craig, CO 81625  
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m. by Chair Mary Brown.
- 2. Introductions of Members and Audience:** All members and guests took turns introducing themselves. See attached sign in sheet.
- 3. Approve/Modify Agenda:** Mary Brown asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the agenda. There were not.
- 4. Review and Approval of September 14, 2016 Minutes:** Chuck Grobe made a motion to approve the September draft minutes. Doug Monger seconded. Motion passed.
- 5. Budget Report (CWCB):** Craig Godbout reported that the Basin balance is \$834,624. There is currently a \$46,000 request, if approved by the CWCB board the Basin balance will be \$788,624. Jackie Brown asked if that balance included phase 3 of the BIP. Craig said everything that is approved by the board is subtracted from the balance upon approval. The Statewide account balance is \$533,000. Craig announced that the earliest possible date for future funding would be July 2017. This is dependent on the alternative funding measure, which must be approved by both the board and the legislature.
- 6. Public hearings/public input and comment:** Public comment was asked for. There was no public comment.
- 7. Consideration/Action on Roundtable Projects: (15 minutes each)**
  - a. West Slope Study combined 1st & 2nd Reading: Jim Pokrandt informed the Roundtable that phase one is wrapping up, phase 2 is ready to start. They would like to go in front of the CWCB board in January for approval. Jackie Brown stated that the Risk Study is great and made a motion that the 1st and 2nd reading for phase 2 be approved, up to \$10,000. Alden Vanden Brink seconded, the motion passed. The Roundtable will get Jim a letter of approval.

**8. Elections:** With the Bylaw changes, At-large seats are limited to 6 seats per County. There are a total of 16 at-large seats 7 of which are up for election. Nine seats are not up for election until 2017, 4 of which are representing Moffat County and 5 representing Routt County. Interested parties took turns going around the room telling the board about themselves. Election results were as follows: Bill Badaracca was re-elected for Routt County, Chuck Grobe and T. Wright Dickinson were re-elected for Moffat County, Jeff Devere and Vince Wilczek re-elected and Travis Day newly appointed for Rio Blanco County. Leaving one Unaffiliated seat open, which must be filled by a Rio Blanco County resident, as both Routt and Moffat Counties have reached their 6 seat limit. Also up for election was 3 out-of Basin seats. Amy Willhite was re-elected to fill one seat. An application was reviewed from an out of Basin non water right owner. The Out of Basin seats were intended for water right holders who do not live in the Basin, filling these seats with an out of Basin non water right owner is allowable under an exception. The board however, chose not to fill a seat with the exception, as the applicant lives in New Mexico and participation would be difficult. Two out of Basin seats remain open.

**9. Reports of each standing or special committee (10 min. each)**

- a. BIP Sub-committee - Jeff Devere a General workshop is needed to possibly reprioritize items in the BIP, in reference to Steve Hinkemeyer's question on the progress of current projects. Can the Roundtable help them move forward?
- b. IBCC update - Jeff Devere/ Kevin McBride: Jeff Devere reported that there is nothing new as they have not had a meeting. Craig Godbout announced that there will be a IBCC combined Ag summit on November 29th.
- c. West Slope Technical Committee –Jeff Devere/ Kevin McBride: Jeff Devere reported that they read the results of the first study, which explains the dire circumstance we may be looking at in 2018. The study will be re-distributed to the Roundtable via email.
- d. PEPO/ Education Committee update – Kelly Romero Heaney reported on the PEPO summit that she and Jeff Devere attended. It was great to see what other Basins are doing. PEPO is currently meeting before the Roundtable meetings. There was a newspaper article on Use it or Lose it. They are currently coordinating events for next year similar to the summit that will be held on November 29th. Developing a website is what they will be working on coming up. Interested parties please come to the next PEPO meeting.

- e. Grant Committee update - Steve Hinkemeyer reported that the Committee did not convene in the past two months. There have not been any new applications.
- f. Bylaws Committee update – Jackie Brown updated that the Bylaws Committee needs to be removed from the agenda, the Bylaws are updated and there is no longer a need for a committee. Craig Godbout asked about the conflict clause in the Roundtables Bylaws. He will send appropriate wording to Jackie in case a change needs to be made. Roundtable members will be provided with the final Bylaws.
- g. DWR update - Erin Light the station was placed in 2011. They had struggles getting plots going. Brian Romig visited the plots once a week to water, measure and collect data. This information is being compiled into a report. There has been some discouragement on the low number of measuring devices. Erin is planning on changing that in the northern part of the Basin, and hoping that it will be successful with little push back.

**10. New business (15 minutes each)**

- a. Anne Castle presentation (45 mins): Anne Castle from the University of Colorado Recommendations for Implementation presentation to the Roundtable on Colorado's Water Plan. The presentation went over integrated land and water planning, and encouraging municipal entities to conserve and be efficient. She also went over the current law both state and local, and their discrepancies, land use conservation, changes that could be made, and goals. See attached.

**11. Old Business**

- a. Meeting location: Mary Brown gave the Roundtable information on three different options for meeting locations. The American Legion proposed the same set up and meal with a new location at the VFW hall, at a total of \$870. The Clarion Inn cost roughly \$750, the set up and acoustics however proved less than desirable. The College offers rooms for free, however their rooms are small and there is a long walk from the parking lot. The College would also require a caterer. One possible caterer (Brothers) would cost between \$550 and \$700 per meeting. Chuck Grobe made a motion to hold the meetings at the VFW by the American Legion, to continue on with the desire to support Veterans. Burt Clements seconded, motion passed.

**12. Announcements:** Craig Godbout announced that they are looking for articles to publish in their newsletter. Mary Brown announced that they would accept agenda items at anytime. Geoff Blakeslee motioned to adjourn the meeting, half the room seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

**13. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings:**

Next meeting date is January 11, 2017 at 6PM

**14. Adjournment:** 8:25 p.m.

# Colorado's Water Plan

## Recommendations for Implementation

Anne Castle  
Getches-Wilkinson Center  
University of Colorado



# Integrated Land and Water Planning

- Water Plan Measurable Objective:
  - By 2025, 75% of Coloradans will live in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions into land-use planning



# Integrated Land and Water Planning

- BIPs recommend improvement of land use policies
- CWCB/DOLA training for local land use planners
- Adequate water supply laws
  - Consumer protection issue
  - Problems with discrepancies

# Yampa/White/Green BIP



- Population expected to triple by 2050
- M&I water usage will double
- **Encourages municipal entities to meet part of needs through water conservation and efficiency**
- Doesn't explicitly address land use



# Current Law

- HB 1141 (2008)
  - Water supplies for land development have regional impact, both within and between river basins
  - Land use decisions are local, but ensuring adequacy of water for new development is a matter of statewide concern

# Current Law – Local Governments

- All local governments (cities, towns, counties) must determine that proposed water supply is adequate
- Applies to developments of 50 units or more
- May request opinion from State Engineer, but not required
- Timing of determination is flexible

# Current Law – Counties

- Older statute, not changed with HB 1141 [Colo. Rev. Stat. §§ 30-28-133, 136]
- Applies to subdivisions of 2 units or more
- State Engineer opinion required
- Timing is not flexible - Water adequacy determination required for approval of preliminary plan or final plat

# Water Conservation

- No requirement for water conservation as part of land use approval process
- Other statutes address conservation
  - Only WaterSense indoor fixtures can now be sold
  - Rain barrel legislation
  - Restrictive covenants can't prohibit xeriscape landscaping or rain barrels

# Recent Legislation on Land Use

- SB 8 (2015)
  - Water conservations plans (suppliers serving >2,000 acre feet) must include evaluation of BMPs for water demand management implemented through land use planning
  - Development of training programs for local government officials
  - Requests recommendations from CWCB and DOLA on better integration of conservation into land use approvals

# Discrepancies – Cities/Counties

## Counties:

Adequacy determination required for division into **2** or more lots

State Engineer opinion required

**Specific times** for making determination (prelim plan, final plat)

## Cities (and Counties):

Adequacy determination required for division into **50** or more lots

State Engineer opinion **not** required

**Complete flexibility** in timing for making determination

# Timing Flexibility – Concerns

- Welcomed by developers and land use authorities
- Unrealistic to expect developers to have all water rights and decrees in hand initially for multi-year development
- But delaying decision to late stage creates problems if water supplies don't pan out

# Fixes Needed

- Sync up different requirements for counties and other local governments
- Guidance to local land planners on how to accumulate water supply information and not get blind-sided
- Water conservation should be explicit part of land use process – YWG BIP
- Little coordination between land use approval agency and water provider – guidance needed on how to do this



# Caveat

- Balancing local control with wise water planning on regional or statewide basis is tricky
- May require different water conservation strategies in different locations



# ATM Goal



- Big push to avoid buy-and-dry
- Water Plan Measurable Objective:
  - Share at least 50,000 af of agricultural water using voluntary ATMs by 2030
  - Colorado currently has 3,000 – 6,000 acre feet of ATMs
- Water Plan recognizes the need to explore mechanisms to reduce barriers to ATMs

# What Does a Water Bank Do?

“The water bank . . . is intended to simplify and improve the approval of water leases, loans, and exchanges . . . within each river basin, reduce the costs associated with such transactions, and increase the availability of water-related information.”

“It is also the purpose of the water banks to assist farmers and ranchers by developing a mechanism to realize the value of their water rights assets without forcing the permanent severance of those water rights from the land.”

Colo. Rev. Stat. § 37-80.5-102

# Why Didn't It Work?

- Limited to stored water
- Uncertainty about review and approval process
- High asking prices
- Passive, not active, operator
- Other mechanisms a better fit

# GOALS

- Take pressure off buy-and-dry
- Make it easy
  - Reduce costs for temporary water transactions
- Always protect other water users
- In West Slope basins, allow for Compact compliance bank

# How Do We Make It Work?

- Don't put water rights at risk
- Active operator facilitates voluntary matchups
- Streamlined review scaled to the temporary nature and size of the transaction
- Operated by trusted public entity

# Concerns About ATMs

- Price
- Timing – Avoid incurring costs of seed and other inputs, or get paid for them
- Impact on soil quality
- Increase in burden of scrutinizing proposed leases to avoid injury

# Possible Tweaks to Water Bank Statute

- Get rid of limitation to stored water
- Allow for Compact compliance bank on West Slope
- Authorize State Engineer to administer banked water
  - Continue call at original point of diversion
  - Allow delivery to new point of withdrawal



# Details

- Models – interruptible supply agreements, lease-fallowing pilot program, substitute supply plans
- Other states – AZ, ID, WA

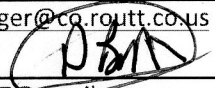
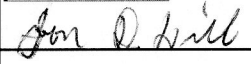
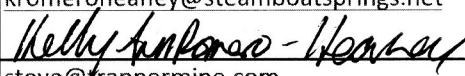
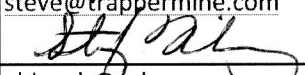
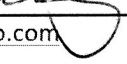





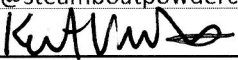
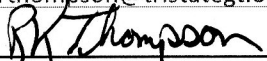
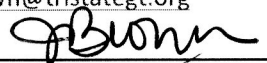
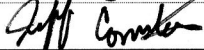
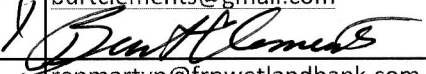
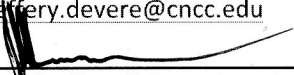

# Resources

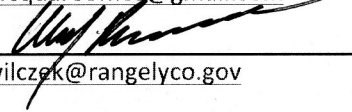
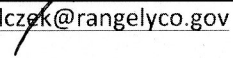

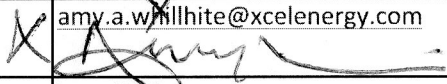
Papers on Integrated Land and Water Planning, ATMs, Watershed Planning, and other Water Plan recommendations

<http://www.colorado.edu/law/research/gwc>



Membership of the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable 2016		Name	Term Exp.	Jan, 13	Mar, 9	May, 11	Jul, 13	Sep, 14	Nov, 9	Signature/email
1	Routt County Commissioners Appointment: (Alt. IBCC Rep through 2015)	Doug Monger	2018	X	X	X	X	X		dmonger@co.routt.co.us 
2	Moffat County Commissioners Appointment: (Alt. IBCC Rep through 2015)	Tom Gray	2018	X	X	X	X			trgray7@gmail.com
3	Rio Blanco County Commissioners Appointment: (Chair through 2015)	Jon Hill	2018	X	X	X	X	X		jon.hill@rbc.us 
4	Garfield County Commissioners Appointment: (Vaccant Never filled)									
5	Routt County Municipality Appointment:	Kelly Romero-Heaney	2018	X	X	X	X	X	X	kromeroheaney@steamboatsprings.net 
6	Moffat County Municipality Appointment:	Stephen Hinkemeyer	2018	X	X	X	X	X	X	steve@trappermine.com 
7	Rio Blanco County Municipality Appointment: (vice Chair #2 through 2017)	Alden Vanden Brink	2018	X	X	X	X	X		aldenvb@yahoo.com 
8	Upper Yampa Conservancy District Appointment: (IBCC Rep through 2016)	Kevin McBride	2018	X	X	X	X	X		kmcbride@upperypawater.com
9	Juniper Water Conservancy District Appointment:	Mike Camblin	2018		X	X	X	X		mcamblin@camblininc.com 
10	Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District Appointment	Kai Turner	2018		X					kaimturner@gmail.com
11	Pothook Water Conservancy District Appointment:		2017							
12	Rio Blanco Conservancy District	Dan Eddy	2020							rbwcd@yahoo.com
13	Colorado River Water Conservation District Appointment:	Dan Birch  Pinch hitting	2018	X		X	X			dbirch@crwcd.org

14	House/Senate Appointment:		2018							
	At-large Appointments from above members			Jan, 13	Mar, 9	May, 11	Jul, 13	Sep, 14	Nov, 9	Signature/email
15	Environmental Appointment:	Geoff Blakeslee	2018	X	X		X	X		<a href="mailto:gblakeslee@tnc.org">gblakeslee@tnc.org</a>
16	Agricultural Appointment: (Chair through 2017)	Mary Brown	2018	X	X	X	X	X		<a href="mailto:marytaylorbrown@gmail.com">marytaylorbrown@gmail.com</a> 
17	Recreation:	Kent Vertrees	2017						X	<a href="mailto:kent@steamboatpowdercats.com">kent@steamboatpowdercats.com</a> 
18	Domestic Water Provider:	Steve Colby	2017	X		X		X		<a href="mailto:scolby@mcwater.org">scolby@mcwater.org</a>
19	Industrial Water Interest:	Rich Thompson	2017			X				<a href="mailto:rthompson@tristategt.org">rthompson@tristategt.org</a> 
20	At-Large Representative:	Chris McCourt	2017					X		<a href="mailto:cmccourt@tristategt.org">cmccourt@tristategt.org</a>
21	At-Large Representative: (vice Chair #1 through 2017)	Jackie Brown	2017	X	X	X	X		X	<a href="mailto:jbrown@tristategt.org">jbrown@tristategt.org</a> 
22	At-Large Representative:	Jeff Comstock	2016			X	X			<a href="mailto:jcomstock@moffatcounty.net">jcomstock@moffatcounty.net</a> 
23	At-Large Representative:	Burt Clements	2016	X	X	X	X	X		<a href="mailto:burtclements@gmail.com">burtclements@gmail.com</a> 
24	At-Large Representative:	Ren Martyn	2016	X		X				<a href="mailto:renmartyn@frpwetlandbank.com">renmartyn@frpwetlandbank.com</a>
25	At-Large Representative: (IBCC Rep through 2017)	Jeff Devere	2017	X	X		X	X		<a href="mailto:jeffery.devere@cnc.edu">jeffery.devere@cnc.edu</a> 
26	At-Large Representative:	Chuck G. Grobe	2017	X		X	X	X		<a href="mailto:cgrobe@moffatcounty.net">cgrobe@moffatcounty.net</a> 
27	At-Large Representative:	Reed Kelley	2016			X	X			<a href="mailto:josephinebasin@gmail.com">josephinebasin@gmail.com</a>

28	At-Large Representative:	Bill Badaracca	2017	X	X		X	X		<a href="mailto:fairsquareoffice@gmail.com">fairsquareoffice@gmail.com</a> 
29	At-Large Representative:	Vince Wilczek	2017	X	X		X	X		<a href="mailto:vwilczek@rangelyco.gov">vwilczek@rangelyco.gov</a> 
	<i>At-large Appointments from above members</i>			Jan, 13	Mar, 9	May, 11	Jul, 13	Sep, 14	Nov, 9	Signature/email
30	Green River Basin Representative	T. Wright Dickinson	2016	X						<a href="mailto:twrightdickinson@vermillionranchlp.com">twrightdickinson@vermillionranchlp.com</a> 
31	Non Voting that live outside the Basin that hold water rights in the Basin	Tonia Folks	2016							<a href="mailto:tfolks@tristategt.org">tfolks@tristategt.org</a>
32	Non Voting that live outside the Basin that hold water rights in the Basin	Mike Sorenson	2016							<a href="mailto:mgsorensen@tristategt.org">mgsorensen@tristategt.org</a>
33	Non Voting that live outside the Basin that hold water rights in the Basin	Amy Willhite	2016							 <a href="mailto:amy.a.willhite@xcelenergy.com">amy.a.willhite@xcelenergy.com</a>
34	Non-Voting Colorado Water Conservation Board Representative	Jay Gallagher	no term	X	X	X	X	X		<a href="mailto:jaygalla@comcast.net">jaygalla@comcast.net</a>



# Guest Sign-In Sheet

[illegible]

**COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Water Supply Reserve Fund - Balance Summary**  
**November 2016**

11/28/2016

<b>Fund Appropriation and Receipts</b>				
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Legislative Appropriation</b>	<b>Funds Received</b>	<b>Statewide Account</b>	<b>Basin Account</b>
2006/2007	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$5,500,000	\$4,500,000
2007/2008	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$4,200,000	\$1,800,000
2008/2009	\$10,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$4,300,000	\$2,700,000
2009/2010	\$5,775,000	\$5,775,000	\$4,215,750	\$1,559,250
2010/2011	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$4,380,000	\$1,620,000
2011/2012	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$4,732,000	\$2,268,000
2012/2013	\$10,000,000	\$7,157,724	\$4,580,943	\$2,576,781
2013/2014	\$10,000,000	\$10,091,639	\$6,458,649	\$3,632,990
2014/2015	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$6,400,000	\$3,600,000
2015/2016	\$10,000,000	\$9,103,590	\$5,826,298	\$3,277,292
2016/2017	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Interest	N/A	\$2,857,935	\$1,829,078	\$0
Prior Years Interest Adjustment			\$1,028,856	\$0
2014/2015 Interest	N/A	\$ 240,216	\$240,216	\$0
2015/2016 Interest	N/A	\$ 219,458	\$219,458	\$0
2016/2017 Interest	N/A	\$ 59,388	\$59,388	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$84,775,000</b>	<b>\$81,504,949</b>	<b>\$53,970,636</b>	<b>\$27,534,313</b>

Interest diverted to SW per DNR reconciliation

Note: The WSRF is a Severance Tax "Tier II" program with 40% of funds distributed on July 1, 30% on January 1, and the final 30% on April 1.

In FY 2008/2009 the final 30% installment of \$3,000,000 was not received due to the State's budgetary shortfall.

*In January 2012 interest for the program from its inception to date was credited directly to the Statewide Account.*

*Interest from January 2012 on is regularly calculated by the Treasury and credited to the Statewide Account.*

<b>Fund Distribution</b>					
<b>Basin</b>	<b>Approved Basin Grants</b>	<b>Total Basin Funds</b>	<b>Basin Account Balance</b>	<b>Approved State Grants</b>	<b>Statewide Account Balance</b>
Arkansas	\$3,036,932	\$3,059,368	\$22,436	\$9,372,551	
Colorado	\$2,685,291	\$3,059,368	\$374,077	\$5,964,274	
Southwest *	\$2,734,563	\$3,059,368	\$324,805	\$7,259,911	
Gunnison *	\$2,614,514	\$3,059,368	\$444,854	\$4,619,681	
Metro	\$2,725,031	\$3,059,368	\$334,337	\$7,501,732	
North Platte	\$2,134,668	\$3,059,368	\$924,700	540,942	
Rio Grande	\$2,755,712	\$3,059,368	\$303,656	\$10,385,323	
South Platte *	\$2,635,562	\$3,059,368	\$423,806	\$7,061,094	
Yampa/White	\$2,240,419	\$3,059,368	\$818,949	\$731,747	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,562,692</b>	<b>\$27,534,313</b>	<b>\$3,971,621</b>	<b>\$53,437,255</b>	<b>\$533,381</b>
<b>TOTAL APPROVED GRANTS</b>					<b>\$76,999,947</b>

Note: Only includes grants approved by CWCB





## **PEPO Committee Report – January 11, 2017**

### 2016 Events

January 14: “The Yampa River” showing at Denver Museum of Nature and Science IMAX Theater - 200 people attended

Speaker: John Fielder

Panelists: Dan Birch, Billie Atkinson, Marsha Daughenbaugh

Feb 24: Forum on water issues in Craig – 70 people attended

Feb 26: Forum on water issues in Craig – 70 people attended

April 25-25: John Stulp Tour in YWG Basin

### PEPO Committee Meeting prior to Round Table Meeting

2016: March 9, September 14, November 9

2017: January 11

### Public Outreach

Announcement of Release of Second Draft of Colorado’s Water Plan – August 2015, Nov 2016

Print Announcements in Craig Daily Press, Steamboat Pilot/Today, Rio Blanco Herald Times

Email Distribution through Routt County Ag Journal

Email Distribution through RT members and other partners

Round Table Vacancy Announcement – Elections held March 9, 2016

Print Announcements in Craig Daily Press, Steamboat Pilot/Today, Rio Blanco Herald Times

Email Distribution through Routt County Ag Journal

Email Distribution through RT members and other partners

Round Table Meeting Announcement – Meetings Held Jan 13 2016, Sept 14 2016, Jan 11 2017

Print Announcements in Craig Daily Press, Steamboat Pilot/Today, Rio Blanco Herald Times

Email Distribution through Routt County Ag Journal

Article titled “Why Measure and Record the Water You Divert” written by Erin Light

in Steamboat Pilot, Craig Press and RB Times

Article titled “Update from the YWG Round Table written by Erin Light in Steamboat Pilot, Craig Press and RB Times

Article titled “Which Way Will the Water Flow?” written by Marsha Daughenbaugh in Steamboat Pilot

Article titled “How the Diversion of Water Affects its Value” by Kevin Rein in Steamboat Pilot, Craig Press, RB Times

Article titled “Answer to State’s Water Woes? By Todd Hagenbuch in Steamboat Pilot, Craig Press, RB Times

### Conferences/Workshops Attended

Colorado Water Congress – August 23-26, 2016; Kelly, Jackie, Jay, Doug, Marsha

CWCB PEPO Workshop in Avon – October 10th, 2016: Kelly, Jeff

CFWE Water Educator Network – November 17, 2016; Marsha

IBCC/CAWA AG Water Summit – November 29, 2016; Jackie, Jeff, Marsha

### CWCB WSRA Grant

Approved for \$30,000 August 30, 2013 – Completed March 31, 2016

11 forums + 2 RT board vacancy outreach + presence at 5 scheduled events

Application for \$150,000 approved by CWCB May 19, Notice to Proceed Received December 8, 2016

### PEPO EAP Outreach Funds

Available for 2016FY: \$6500      Used to date: \$5925.77      Unused: \$574.43

Available for 2017FY: \$6500      Used to date: \$2244.54      Unused to date: \$4255.46

### UPCOMING

Use It or Lose It with Kevin Rein: Colorado First Conservation District Annual Meeting – Feb 28, Craig

YWG River CAWA Workshop – March 22, Steamboat

State of the River with Jim Pokrandt: Friends of the Yampa River Festival – June 1, Steamboat

YWG Website, Social Media Posts

Submitted to Kelly Romero-Heaney by Marsha Daughenbaugh

January 10, 2017



# COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



## WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM

Today's Date: 12/14/2016

White River Storage Project – Phase 2 Study

### Name of Water Activity/Project

Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District

### Name of Applicant

Yampa/White/Green Basin  
Roundtable

Amount from Statewide Account:

\$105,000

Amount from Basin Account(s):

\$85,000

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

\$190,000

### Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

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

FEIN: 84-1157102

### 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

---

### **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):	Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District		
	Mailing address:	2252 East Main Street Rangely, Colorado 81648		
	FEIN #:	84-1157102		
	Primary Contact:	Alden Vanden Brink	Position/Title:	District Manager
	Email:	al@rioblancowcd.org		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 970-629-2525	Office:	970-675-5055
	Alternate Contact:	Brad McCloud	Position/Title:	Project Manager
	Email:	bmcccloud@eissolutions.com		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 970-250-7988	Office:	970-241-3008

### 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 Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District was formed in 1992 to facilitate, operate, and maintain Taylor Draw Dam that creates Kenney Reservoir. The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District constructed the Taylor Draw Hydroelectric Plant in 1993 and has owned, maintained, and operated the hydroelectric facility since its construction. The dam is located on the White River approximately six miles upstream of the Town of Rangely, Colorado in Rio Blanco County. As part of the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District, a Board of Directors was appointed by the Water Court to represent the District community to supply fresh water and recreational opportunities within the District.

Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District is also a part of the Colorado River District whose mission is to “lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the Colorado River basin for the welfare of the District, and to safeguard for Colorado all waters of the Colorado River to which the state is entitled.”

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

Not Applicable

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.

No existing Tabor issues are applicable to the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District.

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

### Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project

1. What is the primary purpose of this grant application? (Please check only one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nonconsumptive (Environmental or Recreational)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Municipal/Industrial
<input type="checkbox"/>	Needs Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other

Explain:

Potentially SSI, Colorado River Compact Compliance, Hydropower

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

The Phase 1 study indicates that this project will provide water for endangered fish, recreation in the new reservoir, municipal and industrial water supply as well as additional water for agriculture.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Study	<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation (Initial Stages)
-------------------------------------	-------	--------------------------	---------------------------------

4. To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRA funds can you provide any of the following numbers?

<input type="text" value="See below"/>	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
<input type="text"/>	New Annual Water Supplies Developed, Consumptive or Nonconsumptive (acre-feet)
<input type="text"/>	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
<input type="text"/>	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
<input type="text"/>	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
<input type="text"/>	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year OR dollars/year – <b>circle one</b> )
<input type="text"/>	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other -- Explain:

5  
20,000 to 90,000 acre-feet of new storage on the White River.

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

---

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

Latitude: 40.2019

Longitude: -108.478

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.

In March of 2015, the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District completed an initial feasibility study to identify potential water storage sites in the White River Basin. The study evaluated 25 potential storage sites along the White River and concluded that a new reservoir, located near the confluence of the White River and Wolf Creek, would provide a very efficient, cost effective, multipurpose water project for northwestern Colorado. The purpose of additional White River water storage is to conserve and put to beneficial use some of the approximately 500,000 acre-feet of unused water that flows out of Colorado from the White River each year. The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District continues to face a serious water crisis because it's Kenney Reservoir, which originally provided 13,800 acre-feet of storage, is silting in at an average rate of more than 300 acre-feet per year. The annual loss of water storage in Kenney Reservoir reduces recreation use in the reservoir each year and significantly increases the risk to the Town of Rangely's water supply in times of droughts. Storing a portion of the water that flows out of Colorado from the White River each year will provide significant benefits to endangered fish; provide additional water for municipal, agricultural, and industrial needs; meet future demands for a variety of recreation activities in northwest Colorado; and potentially provide a source of water for Colorado Compact Compliance. The Phase 1 study also documented that that a new Wolf Creek Reservoir would produce additional tax revenues of nearly \$1.4 million annually to local economies and the State of Colorado.

The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District has filed water rights for the Wolf Creek Reservoir site, which would be either an off-channel dam located on Wolf Creek immediately upstream of the confluence with the White River or an on-channel dam constructed on the main stem of the White River, immediately downstream of the White River/Wolf Creek confluence. The objective of this second study phase is to continue work to refine the primary alternatives to meet the many important water conservation needs within the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District so that the project permitting phase may begin in 2018.

A detailed Statement of Work, Schedule, and Budget for the project are provided in Exhibit A.

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

---

### 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.)

The Phase 2 study will further refine the primary alternatives for a feasible reservoir site in the White River Basin. The applicant, Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District, is an eligible entity.

- a) The water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes.<sup>1</sup>

This application is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes, as it's a research based project and does not "supersede, abrogate, or cause injury to vested water rights or decreed conditional water rights." This project also does not "impair, limit, or otherwise affect the rights of persons or entities to enter into agreement, contracts, or memoranda of understanding with other persons or entities relating to the appropriation, movement, or use of water under other provisions of law."

- 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 draft of the WSRA Grant Application was reviewed with the Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable on January 11, 2016.*

---

<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

- 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.

A letter of approval from the Basin Roundtable Chair is provided in Appendix A as part of this application.

- 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 but 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)

### White River Storage Project Partnership Phase 2 Study Funding Summary

Study Partner	Contribution	Contribution Percentage
CWCB WSRA Grant	\$105,000	30%
Yampa/White/Green Roundtable	\$85,000	24%
Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District	\$75,000	21%
Town of Rangely	\$50,000	14%
Town of Meeker	\$10,000	3%
Rio Blanco County	\$25,000	7%
<b>Phase 2 Study Total</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	

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.**

<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

---

**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

- 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).
- This project addresses the needs of multiple interests including the Town of Rangely for municipal and industrial water supply needs, water for endangered fish on the White River, water for recreation, industrial water supplies, and water for agriculture in the White River Basin. The reservoir could also potentially provide water for Colorado compact compliance.
- 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.
- The list of potential stakeholders identified more than 50 potential stakeholders, including federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, industry, and private citizens. This list itself indicates extensive collaboration.
- 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.
- The project is consistent with the Colorado Water Plan and the Yampa White Green Basin Implementation Plan.

### 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).

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

- Funding for the Phase 2 study will help move the project towards implementation and meet the objective of being ready to initiate the permitting phase of the project in 2018.
- 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.
- As indicated in the funding summary table below, the applicant is providing 21 percent of the study funds and local governments are providing approximately 24 percent of the funding requested.

**White River Storage Project Partnership Phase 2 Study Funding Summary**

<b>Study Partner</b>	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Contribution Percentage</b>
CWCB WSRA Grant	\$105,000	30%
Yampa/White/Green Roundtable	\$85,000	24%
Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District	\$75,000	21%
Town of Rangely	\$50,000	14%
Town of Meeker	\$10,000	3%
Rio Blanco County	\$25,000	7%
<b>Phase 2 Study Total</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	

### 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.
  - This project helps sustain and promote agriculture, open space, recreational, and environmental needs by better utilizing of water in the White River.
- 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.
  - Part of the Phase 2 study is to determine if the project may have the potential to provide Colorado compact curtailment insurance during periods of drought.
- h. The water activity assists in the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species or Colorado State species of concern.
  - The project has tremendous potential to provide supplemental water to enhance endangered fish habitat in the White River. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is currently completing the Programmatic Biologic Opinion to quantify water needs for endangered fish in the White River.
- i. The water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.
  - This is the initial stage of project development that could result in future CWCB funding request and enhancement of CWCB minimum stream flow programs.

## **Part IV. – Required Supporting Material**

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

---

### **Suggested Format for Scope of Work**

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.

Water from the White River will be stored and put to beneficial use some of the approximately 500,000 acre-feet of unused water that flows out of Colorado from the White River each year.

The available water rights that could be used for the water project includes the following water rights:

- I. The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District filed for three conditional water rights associated with the Wolf Creek Reservoir on October 29, 2014. The first right is the Wolf Creek Reservoir Pump and Pipeline, which will be used to fill the Wolf Creek Off-Channel Reservoir. The second right is the Wolf Creek Off-Channel Dam and Reservoir. The third right is for an alternative Wolf Creek Mainstem Dam and Reservoir that would be constructed on the mainstem of the White River. The water right filed is for municipal, industrial, commercial, irrigation, domestic, recreation, piscatorial, augmentation, wildlife habitat, maintenance and recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species, hydroelectric power generation and all other beneficial uses.
  - II. Conditional water right, Taylor Draw Reservoir, in the amount of 13,800 acre feet with an appropriate date of July 3, 1962 for the conditional uses of manufacturing, irrigation, domestic, municipal, stockwatering, and piscatorial.
  - III. Conditional water right, Taylor Draw Reservoir – Second Filling, in the amount of 13,800 acre feet with an appropriate date of November 20, 1982 for the conditional uses of manufacturing, irrigation, domestic, municipal, stockwatering, and piscatorial.
  - IV. Conditional water right for Strawberry Creek Reservoir in the amount of 79,957 acre feet with an appropriate date of June 16, 1972. This water right is owned the Colorado River Water Conservation District and would need to be transferred to the preferred dam site that would be identified in the Phase 2 feasibility study.
  - V. Conditional water right for Wray Gulch Reservoir in the amount of 29,374 acre feet with an appropriate date of July 19, 1972. This water right is owned the Colorado River Water Conservation District and would need to be transferred to the preferred dam site that would be identified in the Phase 2 feasibility study.
  - VI. Other future water rights filed for the preferred reservoir site or other future water rights transferred to the preferred reservoir site by other project stakeholders.
2. Please provide a brief narrative of any related studies or permitting issues.

This Phase 2 study will include continued dialogue with key permitting agencies such as the BLM and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help identify key permitting issues and expand upon what was developed in the 2015

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

---

Phase 1 Study.

### 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

---

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

**Signature of Applicant:**

**Print Applicant's Name:**

**Project Title:**

**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)

# Yampa/White/Green BRT

## GRANT APPLICATION FORM

PAGE 1 OF 2

Date for Second Reading - January 11, 2016

**PROJECT NAME:** White River Storage Project – Phase 2 Study

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**– Please provide a short description of your project (150 words or less)

The objective of this second study phase is to continue work associated with the Phase 1 study to refine the primary alternatives and continue to meet with key Stakeholders so that the project permitting phase can begin in 2018.

**WSRA ELIGIBLE** – Are you eligible for WSRA Funding? Yes ☒ No ☐

**YWG BASIN** – Are you in the Yampa/White/Green Drainage Basin? Yes ☒ No ☐

**STATEMENT OF WORK** – Please include a proposed schedule & budget for this project (150 words or less)

Please see the attached Exhibit A. The proposed budget and schedule are summarized in Table 1 of Exhibit A.

**PARTNERS** – List who are the partners or prospective partners for this project?

Partners include: the Town of Rangely, the Town of Meeker, Rio Blanco County, the Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Other prospective partners include: the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Colorado River District, Moon Lake Electric Association, Moffat County, and the City of Craig.

**GRANT AMOUNT** – What is the expected “ask amount” for this Project from the YWG BRT?

\$85,000

Are other WSRA BRT’s involved in this project? Yes ☐ No ☒

Click here to Explain if Yes

Will there be a state wide Account Ask for this project? Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes what is the expected “ask amount” for this project from the WSRQ State Account?

\$105,000

**PROJECT CLASSIFICATION** – If this project has a public benefit component please explain whether it involves public water, public lands, public access or public beneficial use (i.e. water quality, water improvement, etc.) Please attach any reference material you feel is necessary.





# Yampa/White/Green BRT

## GRANT APPLICATION FORM

PAGE 1 OF 2

There are numerous public benefits associated with the project. The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District has filed for a storage right for Wolf Creek Reservoir and the District is a public organization. The reservoir would be constructed on public BLM lands and there would be tremendous recreational potential and public access to the water. Other public benefits include providing drought protection for the Town of Rangely's water supply, providing water storage to enhance endangered fish water in the White River, providing additional storage for agriculture and industrial water use and the potential to improve water quality in the White River by removing sediment and reducing selenium in the lower reaches of the White River.



# Yampa/White/Green BRT

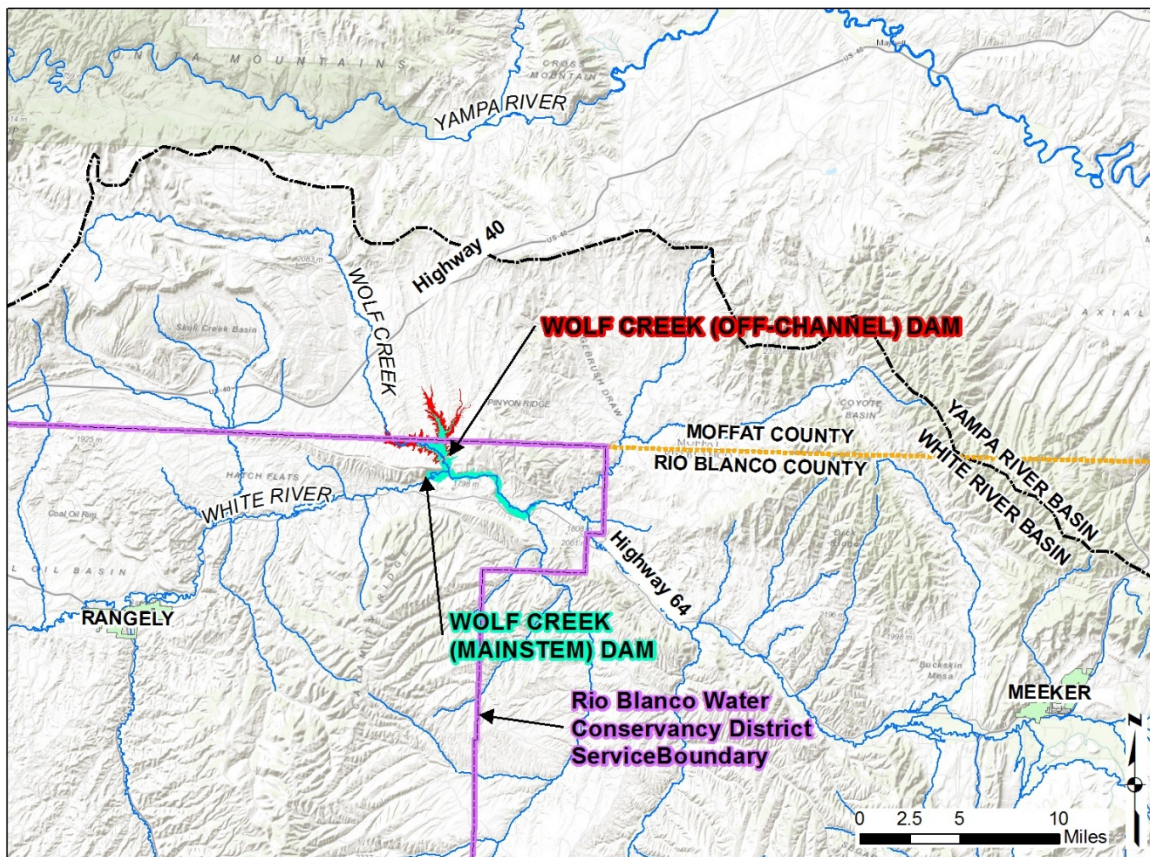
APPLICATION: YWG BIP GOALS	PAGE 2 OF 2
<p>Goal 1: How does your project protect the YWG Basin from compact curtailment of existing decreed water uses and some increment of future uses?</p>	
<p>Although no specific compact protection is provided with this project, constructing an additional storage reservoir in the White River Basin would provide an opportunity to transfer pre-compact water rights to the reservoir to further protect these storage rights. The study does include an evaluation of a maximum reservoir size that has the potential to provide interim, compact curtailment insurance during severe droughts.</p>	
<p>Goal 2: How does your project protect and encourage agriculture uses of water in the YWG Basin within the context of private property rights?</p>	
<p>Providing additional storage in the White River for agricultural water would allow (affected or impacted) agricultural water rights owners to fully develop their existing water rights and promote the development of new agricultural lands in the White River.</p>	
<p>Goal 3: How does your project improve agricultural water supplies to increase irrigated land and reduce shortages?</p>	
<p>Providing additional storage in the White River for agricultural water would allow (affected or impacted) agricultural water rights owners to fully develop their existing water rights and potentially develop new agricultural lands in the White River.</p>	
<p>Goal 4: How does your project identify and address municipal and industrial (M&amp;I) water shortages?</p>	
<p>With the continued loss of storage in Kenney Reservoir of more than 300 acre-feet per year, the Town of Rangely's drought protection is significantly reduced each year. Additional municipal water storage in Wolf Creek Reservoir will significantly enhance Rangely's water supplies and provide vital drought protection to the Town.</p>	
<p>Goal 5: How does your project quantify and protect environmental and recreational water uses at locations identified in the non-consumptive needs study of the YWG BRT?</p>	
<p>Providing more flows from storage in the lower reaches of the White River during the seasons when there is not adequate flow in the river will enhance endangered fish habitat in the Lower White River. A secondary benefit of the conveyance of water for endangered fish is that increasing seasonal White River flows provides valuable non-consumptive water for rafters, kayakers and other recreation users along the lower reaches of the White River.</p>	
<p>Goal 6: How does your project maintain and consider the existing natural range of water quality that is necessary for current and anticipated water uses?</p>	
<p>Construction of a Wolf Creek Reservoir was originally planned as a project that would reduce sedimentation in Kenney Reservoir. The currently proposed reservoir has the potential to reduce sediment and naturally occurring selenium in the lower reaches of the White River. With more consistent flows there will be greater dilution of natural contaminants and minerals as well water temperature stabilization.</p>	
<p>Goal 7: How does your project restore, maintain and modernize water storage and distribution infrastructure?</p>	
<p>The proposed project would assist in the reduction of the sedimentation in the White River potentially maintaining the existing storage in Kenney Reservoir.</p>	
<p>Goal 8: How does your project develop an integrated system of water use, storage, administration and delivery to reduce water shortages and meet environmental and recreational needs?</p>	



# Yampa/White/Green BRT

The proposed project will provide significant integrated water use, storage and would help administer water use in the White River for multiple beneficiaries, including endangered fish, the Town of Rangely, and other agricultural and industrial water users. There would be tremendous flat water recreation potential in the new reservoir that would provide an additional \$1.4 million in tax revenues per year to local governments and the State of Colorado. Some of the recreational opportunities would include fishing, boating, camping, and hiking. As stated above, the delivery of water to improve downstream fish habitat would also provide additional non-consumptive water for water related recreation in the lower White River.

**PLEASE ATTACH A PROJECT AREA MAP WITH THIS FORM**





## **EXHIBIT A – White River Storage Project – Phase 2 Study Statement of Work**

### **STUDY OBJECTIVE**

In March of 2015, the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District completed an initial feasibility study to identify potential water storage sites in the White River Basin. The study evaluated 25 potential storage sites along the White River and concluded that a new reservoir, located near the confluence of the White River and Wolf Creek, would provide a very efficient, cost effective, multipurpose water project for northwestern Colorado. The purpose of additional White River water storage is to conserve and put to beneficial use some of the approximately 500,000 acre-feet of unused water that flows out of Colorado from the White River each year. The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District continues to face a serious water crisis because it's Kenney Reservoir, which originally provided 13,800 acre-feet of storage, is silting in at an average rate of more than 300 acre-feet per year. The annual loss of water storage in Kenney Reservoir reduces recreation use in the reservoir each year and significantly increases the risk to the Town of Rangely's water supply in times of droughts. Storing a portion of the water that flows out of Colorado from the White River each year will provide significant benefits to endangered fish; provide additional water for municipal, agricultural, and industrial; provide water quality benefits; and meet future demands for a variety of recreation activities in northwest Colorado. The Phase 1 study also documented that that a new Wolf Creek Reservoir would produce additional annual tax revenues of nearly \$1.4 million to local economies and the State of Colorado.

The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District has filed water rights for the Wolf Creek Reservoir site, which would be either an off-channel dam located on Wolf Creek immediately upstream of the confluence with the White River or an on-channel dam constructed on the main stem of the White River, immediately downstream of the White River/Wolf Creek confluence. The objective of this second study phase is to continue work to refine the primary alternatives to meet the many important water conservation needs within the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District so that the project permitting phase may begin in 2018.

### **PROJECT ROLES**

The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District would continue to engage EIS Solutions and W. W. Wheeler and Associates, Inc. (Wheeler) to complete the second phase of the study. EIS Solutions will be responsible for managing the project, facilitating project communications, and conducting stakeholder meetings and Wheeler would perform technical evaluations and prepare a Phase 2 Study Report.

### **BUDGET and SCHEDULE**

The study would be completed concurrently with the White River Modeling and Management Plan during 2017 and 2018. A description of the key study tasks are provided on the next page. Key Milestone schedules and budgets for the study are summarized in Table 1 on the next page. A summary of key project study partner funding is provided in Table 2.

**Table 1 – Summary of Key Phase 2 Study Task Budgets and Schedules**

<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Tentative Task Milestone Date</b>	<b>Task Budget</b>
1	Project Management, Outreach and Public Meetings	6-30-18	\$175,000
2	Primary Alternatives Refinement	12-31-17	\$55,000
2a	Maximum Reservoir Evaluation	1-31-18	\$25,000
3	Preliminary Reservoir Sedimentation Studies	9-30-17	\$20,000
4	Modeling Coordination	12-31-17	\$30,000
5	Phase 2 Report	6-30-18	\$45,000
<b>Phase 2 Subtotal</b>			<b>\$350,000</b>

**Table 2 – White River Storage Project Partnership Funding Summary**

<b>Study Partner</b>	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Contribution Percentage</b>
CWCB WSRA Grant	\$105,000	30%
Yampa/White/Green Roundtable	\$85,000	24%
Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District	\$75,000	21%
Town of Rangely	\$50,000	14%
Town of Meeker	\$10,000	3%
Rio Blanco County	\$25,000	7%
<b>Phase 2 Study Total</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	

**STUDY TASK DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Task 1 – Project Management, Outreach and Public Meetings:** This task includes the following:

- Task 1a – Project Management and Coordination
- Task 1b – Continued Stakeholder Outreach
- Task 1c – Public Meetings

The subtasks are described below.

**Task 1a – Project Management and Coordination:** Includes project management, coordination of key study criteria, methods, results and meeting coordination.

**Deliverables:** Brief progress reports will be prepared for each Yampa/White/Green Roundtable meeting.

**Task 1b - Continued Key Stakeholder Outreach and Meetings:** EIS will continue to meet with key potential stakeholders, interested community groups and Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable members to further refine the primary alternatives for the project. Some of the key stakeholder update meetings that are anticipated include meetings with the following organizations:

- The BLM
- White River Electric Association
- The Colorado River District
- The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- The Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Moon Lake Electric Association
- Rio Blanco County
- Moffat County
- Town of Rangely
- Town of Meeker
- City of Craig
- Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Implementation Committee)
- Yellow Jack Water Conservancy District
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Western Area Power Administration
- State legislators
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources and the Governor's office
- Congressional delegation
- Colorado Water Congress members
- Colorado River Water Users Association members
- Club 20
- AGNC (Associated Governments of Northern Colorado)
- Mesa and Garfield Counties
- Media and Editorial boards (Daily Sentinel, Denver Post)
- NW Colorado newspaper and radio reporters
- Area Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development organizations
- Various environmental organizations
- Other identified stakeholders
- Additional civic groups
- Additional energy development partners

**Deliverables:** Meeting summaries of key stakeholder meetings.

**Task 1c – Public Meetings:** This task includes holding up to a minimum of three public meetings throughout the study. The public meetings are anticipated as follows:

- An initial meeting at the beginning of the Study to explain the Phase 2 Study Scope and solicit additional public input;
- A progress meeting to provide an update during the Study;
- A draft report meeting to review the results of the draft report and solicit public comments before the Phase 2 report is finalized.

Each of the public meetings are tentatively scheduled to be held in Rangely, Colorado. Each meeting will include both an open house and public presentation format that that will occur over several hours to maximize the exchange of information with interested stakeholders. The meetings may also be scheduled to coincide with other key water related meetings in the basin. We have also included up to three meetings with the Yampa/White/Green Roundtable and one meeting with the Rio Blanco Water Conservation District Board to update these key stakeholders on the progress of key work tasks.

**Deliverables:** A summary of each public meeting including a listing of meeting attendees will be prepared and included in an appendix of the Phase 2 report.

**Task 2 - Primary Alternatives Refinement:** After the initial meetings in 2017 with some of the key stakeholders, Wheeler will refine the 2015 feasibility designs and cost opinions so that the off-channel and on-channel reservoirs and associated drain and fill facilities are developed to a comparable level of detail. The feasibility designs for the on-channel reservoir were not fully developed during the 2015 feasibility study. The feasibility designs will include the development of preliminary drawings, construction quantities, and cost opinions for the on-channel dam, spillway, and outlet works. Wheeler will also re-evaluate the drain and fill facilities for the off-channel reservoir to determine if the off-channel reservoir could be filled by less expensive gravity flow ditches or a combination of gravity flow ditches and smaller booster stations from diversion points located higher in the basin such as Wray Gulch and Strawberry Creek. The feasibility of using other more senior water rights from other potential partners such, as the Colorado River District, will be evaluated as part of this task.

**Task 2a - Maximum Reservoir Evaluation:** Based on recent comments from some stakeholders, it may be beneficial to build the largest possible reservoir at Wolf Creek. As part of this task, Wheeler will develop feasibility designs and cost opinions for the maximum size reservoir that could be constructed at both the off-channel or on-channel reservoir near the confluence of the White River and Wolf Creek. No additional water modeling will be performed for these larger reservoirs. If larger reservoirs are considered to be viable, additional information such as reservoir yield and key resource impacts would need to be developed by others as part of future development or permitting work. The objective of this maximum reservoir work would be to develop an approximate cost for a much larger reservoir that could have additional benefits to the State of Colorado.

**Deliverables:** The Phase 2 report will document the following Task 2 work:

- Update feasibility drawings, construction quantities and cost opinions for the off-channel and on-channel reservoirs;
- Updated feasibility designs for off-channel drain and fill facilities;
- Updated comparison of key adverse impacts expected from both the reservoirs to key resources such as wetlands, wildlife, private properties, and sensitive BLM lands; and
- Include information from the Maximum Reservoir Evaluation.

**Task 3 – Preliminary Reservoir Sedimentation Studies:** Wheeler will use available soils data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and BLM to develop preliminary estimates of the rate of sedimentation for both the off-channel and on-channel Wolf Creek reservoirs. These estimates will be used to refine the extent of the sediment pools in each alternative reservoir site. This task will also document some of the sedimentation pond construction work that has already been cooperatively completed by the BLM and the Rio Blanco

Water Conservatively District in the last twenty years and the effectiveness of these facilities to minimize sediment runoff into the proposed reservoirs.

**Deliverables:** The Phase 2 report will document the watershed sedimentation data collected as well as the key sedimentation assumptions, methods, and results of the sedimentation estimates and potential sedimentation mitigation measures for both the off-channel or on-channel Wolf Creek reservoirs.

**Task 4 – Modeling Coordination:** This task would include continued Wheeler involvement in coordination meetings associated with the White River Modeling and Management Plan, which is scheduled to be completed concurrently with the proposed Phase 2 study.

**Deliverables:** The Phase 2 report will include a chapter on yields expected for both the off-channel and on-channel Wolf Creek Reservoirs based on the modeling that is scheduled to be completed concurrently with the Phase 2 study.

**Task 5 - Phase 2 Report:** Wheeler will prepare a draft report that summarizes the Phase 2 work. The draft report is tentatively scheduled to be available for public review by March 15, 2018. After a public review period and the draft report meeting, a final report will be issued that addresses public comments received.

**Deliverables:** A draft and final report will be prepared and provided to interested stakeholders.