

Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
July 19-20, 2017
Agenda Item 15(a)

Applicant & Grantee: Colorado Watershed Assembly

Water Activity Name: South Platte Basin Education Coordinator

Water Activity Purpose: Educational Implementation

County: All counties within South Platte Basin

Drainage Basin: South Platte

Water Source: N/A

Amount Requested: \$25,000 South Platte Basin Account
\$25,000 Metro Account

Matching Funds: N/A. As stated in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines: “For requests that result directly from Basin Implementation Plans, and are initiated by the respective Roundtable, all funds needed to complete the proposed water activity may be provided from the WSRF.”

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Metro Account and \$25,000 from the South Platte Basin Account to help fund the project titled: South Platte Basin Education Coordinator.
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Water Activity Summary: This WSRF grant, if approved, will be used by the South Platte Basin Roundtable (SPBRT) and the Metro Roundtable (MRT) to support an Education Coordinator to oversee internal roundtable and external stakeholder educational activities as the roundtables proceed to implement their Education Action Plan (EAP), South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP), and Colorado’s Water Plan (CWP). The position will also serve as a Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) liaison for the roundtables and will work to carry out the responsibilities of the PEPO workgroup. Decision making and oversight will be jointly managed through both roundtables’ Education and Executive Committees. Specific activity plans, content, and messages will be developed with Committee participation; a minimum of two events/activities per quarter for the six quarter-year period are being proposed in the region.

With guidance from the Strategic Communications Plan referenced in Section 4.1.3 of the South Platte BIP (currently being developed by the roundtables), the Coordinator will: provide regular progress reports to the SPBRT and MRT; establish sound working relationships and cooperative arrangements with watershed stakeholders and enhance collaboration among those with goals that align with those from the CWP and BIP; represent the SPBRT at community events; compile and create outreach materials that can be used by this or future Education Coordinators and SPBRT and MRT members; and respond to stakeholder inquiries.

Funds will also be used to support the upkeep and maintenance of the South Platte Basin web page (www.southplattebasin.com) to provide necessary materials and supplies to accomplish the objectives noted above and to provide communications and travel reimbursement to the Education Coordinator.

Discussion: As described in the South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtable Chairs' Recommendation Letters, this project supports a focused and professional effort acknowledging local interests and defining local priorities. The position of Education Coordinator for the Metro and South Platte Roundtables will add energy and coordination for the PEPO workgroup, bringing the South Platte perspective to a statewide public education initiative. As noted in the SPBIP, Section 4.1.3, "The South Platte Basin is home to 80% of the State's population and accounts for 80% of the State's economy and tax base. It is an area with great diversity both economically and demographically that is facing 75% of the projected statewide municipal water supply gap. The South Platte Basin deserves and needs an intensive education, participation, and outreach program designed to generate a lasting baseline of public awareness and support."

This project directly assists in satisfying CWP Critical Goals and Actions as identified in *Chapter 10.3.H: Education, Outreach, and Innovation* to inform Coloradans about water issues to encourage engagement and innovation in determining Colorado's water future. To realize the goals of the SPBIP will require an increased level of cooperation among water providers, water users, legislators, and the business community. This need for cooperation will only be accomplished if we can convene meaningful deliberative discussions that are facilitated to bring forward a willingness to compromise and take risks to advance innovative solutions. This request is made with the understanding that the Education Coordinator will also endeavor to identify opportunities, through additional grants or other funding, to leverage the WSRF grant for this position and to research and apply for additional funding to advance the SPBRT and MRT priorities identified in the EAP, BIP and CWP.

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

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, Water Activity Eligibility, and Eligibility Based on Match Requirements.

Evaluation Criteria: This activity has undergone review and staff has determined it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria outlined in Colorado's Water Plan, Section 9.4. Please refer to Basin Roundtable Chairs' Recommendation Letters and the Application for a detailed response.

Funding Summary / Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-Kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
WSRF South Platte Basin Account	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
WSRF Metro Basin Account	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Total Project Costs	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000

CWCB Project Manager: Megan Holcomb