

Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 19-21, 2017
Agenda Item 22(a)

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 Gunnison Basin Account
\$15,000 Yampa Basin Account
\$10,000 Southwest Basin Account
\$100,000 Statewide Account *
\$150,000 Total Grant Request

Matching Funds: Basin Account Match (\$75,000) = 75% of Statewide Account request (meets 10% min);
Applicant & 3rd Party Match (\$58,000) = 58% of Statewide Account request (meets 10% min);
Total Match (Basin & Applicant/3rd Party Match of \$133,000) = 133% of Statewide request (meets 50% min)
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

*NOTE: The applicant decided to postpone a statewide WSRF request of \$100K at the March 2017 Board meeting due to a Statewide Account shortfall. The Colorado Roundtable Chair's recommendation letter date of February 1st can be attributed to this change.

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Gunnison Basin, \$15,000 from the Yampa Basin, and \$10,000 from the Southwest Basin Accounts, and up to \$100,000 from the Statewide 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 ft² interactive water exhibit. In recognition of this gift, the Center would like to put each contributing 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 CWCB'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: The CWCB, supported by the Colorado Basin Roundtable, previously awarded this project \$25k in Colorado Basin funds (March 2017). The McConnell Center has now traveled to and received support from all four west slope roundtables. The varying WSRF amounts correspond to each basin's proximity to, and thus expected utilization of, the new Math and Science Center. If all basin and statewide asks are supported, the CWCB will have contributed \$175,000 in WSRF grants toward a \$5.5 million statewide water education project.

This project directly responds to Colorado's Water Plan objectives as identified in *Chapter 10.3.H: Education, Outreach, and Innovation* by creatively engaging Coloradans in issues surrounding the state's water future. Signage in the new facility, sponsored by WSRF grants, will point visitors to understanding components of and the connections between Colorado's Water Plan (CWP), the IBCC, and west slope BIPs. This project will directly connect thousands of western slope K-12 students and their parents and teachers in hands-on learning that demonstrates how water works in Colorado. The hands-on water exhibit will be able to show how dams and diversions move water onto the land and into homes, demonstrate river dynamics and hydrology, and show the interactions between consumptive and non-consumptive uses of water. Increasing public understanding of these dynamics will help promote long-term stewardship and wise use of Colorado's water resources.

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>
Ute Water and Clifton Water	\$58,000	\$0	\$58,000
WSRF Colorado Basin Account (Awarded March 2017)	\$25,000		\$25,000
WSRF Gunnison Basin Account	\$25,000		\$25,000
WSRF Yampa Basin Account	\$15,000		\$15,000
WSRF Southwest Basin Account	\$10,000		\$10,000
Sub-total	\$133,000		\$133,000
WSRF Statewide Account	\$100,000		\$100,000
Total Project Costs	\$233,000	\$0	\$233,000

CWCB Project Manager: Megan Holcomb