

Last Updated: July 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant Application – Colorado River Interpretive Center

Instructions

To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as “project”) funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.

If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:

Supply and Demand Gap Projects: Rebecca.Mitchell@state.co.us

Water Storage Projects: Anna.Mauss@state.co.us

Conservation, Land Use Planning: Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us

Education & Innovation Activities: Mara.MacKillop@state.co.us

Agricultural Projects: Gregory.Johnson@state.co.us

Environmental & Recreation Projects: Linda.Bassi@state.co.us

Applicants interested in submitting an ‘Intent to Apply’ in the future are encouraged to check here ☐ and fill in all sections with the best information available at the time. Exhibits excluded.

This “Intent to Apply” will help CWCB prioritize Projects that are not ready for fully completed Water Plan Grant Application due to the initial timeframe and deadlines required.

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Middle Colorado Watershed Council	
Name of Water Project	Colorado River Interpretive Center	
CWP Grant Request Amount	\$ 47,400	
Other Funding Sources <u>CBRT PEPO</u>	\$ 3,000	
Other Funding Sources <u>Private Donors</u>	\$ 10,000	
Total Project Cost	\$ 60,400	

Last Updated: July 2017

Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Middle Colorado Watershed Council
Mailing Address	200 Lion's Park Circle, Rifle, CO 81650
FEIN	46-4352983
Organization Contact	Anne Whetzel
Position/Title	Community Outreach Coordinator
Email	annie@midcowatershed.org
Phone	412-952-3649
Grant Management Contact	<u>Anne Whetzel</u>
Position/Title	Community Outreach Coordinator
Email	annie@midcowatershed.org
Phone	412-952-3649
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

Last Updated: July 2017

Description of Grantee/Applicant
<p>Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).</p> <p>The Middle Colorado Watershed Council (MCWC) aims to evaluate, protect and enhance the Middle section of the Colorado River through the cooperative efforts of our diverse stakeholders. We work with stakeholders ranging from concerned citizens, to municipal water providers, to the oil and gas industry, to agriculture and ranching, to recreation. We are governed by a diverse board representing most of the stakeholder sectors in our watershed. Our current projects include water quality impairment assessments, citizen science water quality testing, riparian restoration, and public outreach and education on the watershed.</p> <p>The MCWC is active in the Colorado Basin Roundtable and has formed working partnerships across our region with adjoining watershed groups, community groups, and local, state and federal agencies.</p> <p>The MCWC is a 501(c)3 organization Colorado corporation.</p>

Last Updated: July 2017

Last Updated: July 2017

Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	Public (Government): Municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. 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: Private parties may be eligible for funding.
X	Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
	Study
	Construction
	Identified Process or Program
X	Other

Category of Water Project (check all that apply)		
	Supply and Demand Gap Projects - Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s)_____)	
	Water Storage Projects - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial recharge into aquifers, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed storage capacity. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s)_____)	
	Conservation and Land Use Planning Projects - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s)_____)	
X	Engagement & Innovation Projects - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application available on the website. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s)_____)	
	Agricultural Projects - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s)_____)	
	Environmental & Recreation Projects – Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s)_____)	
	Other	Explain:

Last Updated: July 2017

Location of Water Project	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Garfield County
Latitude	
Longitude	

Water Project Overview
<p>Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.</p> <p>The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.</p>
<p>The Middle Colorado Watershed Council (MCWC) is endeavoring to create a Colorado River Interpretive Center for educating the public on the Colorado River and its value to the residents of Colorado.</p> <p>The Colorado River Interpretive Center will engage the public, from school groups, to tourists, to local stakeholders along the Middle Colorado River. The Colorado River Interpretive Center will include themes and stories about the river, connect people emotionally to the river, and leave the visitors with new knowledge about the River and issues facing Colorado water.</p> <p>The CWP Funding will be put towards three tasks.</p> <p>Task 1: Audience definition and stakeholder engagement. This will involve key education specialists in the region in a design charrette process to identify the target audiences and determine a set of priority themes and messages for the Center.</p> <p>Task 2: Interpretive Material Creation and Design. This task will take the agreed upon educational themes, stories and messages and transform them into displays that work together functionally within the Center environment.</p> <p>Task 3: Interpretive Center Programming. The MCWC will work with local partners and schools to create special events and educational opportunities in conjunction with the Center.</p>

Last Updated: July 2017

Measurable Results		
To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:		
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)	
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive	
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)	
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning	
To Be Determined	Other	Explain: We will track the number of guests who utilize the interpretive center and, to the best of our ability, collect contact information. This will measure the reach of the visitor center and provide for continued contact and engagement with the Middle Colorado Watershed Council.

Water Project Justification
<p>Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative, and the applicable Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).</p> <p>The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;)</p>
<p>Goals supported from the Colorado Water Plan:</p> <p>Section 10.2 H, p 10-7 Outlines the CWP intention of creating measurable goals for Education, Outreach and Innovation through increasing public awareness on water issues. The Middle Colorado Watershed Council believes the Colorado River Interpretive Center (Center) will serve as an outreach and education hub for Garfield County and to inform the public and those travelling through the state on key issues outlined in the CWP.</p> <p><i>"Colorado's Water Plan will expand outreach and education efforts that engage the public to promote well-informed community discourse and decision making regarding balanced water solutions. This work will be collaborative and include state, local, and federal partners. As one component of this overall strategy, the CWCB will work with Colorado's innovation community, education and outreach experts, research institutions, and the Governor's Colorado Innovation Network (COIN) to address Colorado's water challenges with innovation and "outside-the-box" creativity."</i></p> <p>The Center falls into the "outside the box" creativity category as it provides an opportunity to capture the attention of local and statewide residents, regional schools and other constituent groups, and non-residents travelling along the Colorado River through the I-70 corridor. Given that the Center is strategically located at a "mid-point" along the Colorado River mainstem in Colorado, it offers the</p>

Last Updated: July 2017

Water Project Justification

opportunity to highlight basin-wide Colorado River functions, themes, and issues as described in the Colorado River BIP as well as focusing on local river-related issues that can be visually explored in the immediate environs.

Chapter 3, p 3-20 Highlights the themes of importance for the Colorado River Basin. These themes include:

1. *Protect and restore healthy streams, rivers, lakes, and riparian areas.*
2. *Sustain agriculture.*
3. *Secure safe drinking water.*
4. *Develop local water-conscious land-use strategies.*
5. *Assure dependable basin administration.*
6. *Encourage a high level of basin-wide conservation.*

The Center has the potential to cover these six themes in an educational and engaging way for the visiting public, constituent groups, and school groups. Education and public outreach on these themes will ultimately help local/regional decision-makers, land and resource managers, and the public, make informed decisions on land-use strategies, riparian protection, and basin-wide conservation.

Colorado Basin BIP Goals Achieved:

We intend to use the Colorado River BIP to guide our stakeholder engagement questions and direct our targeted themes.

Section 2.3, p 41 outlines goals and ways to increase public outreach efforts within the basin. One aspect the relates directly to the Colorado River Interpretive Center is:

“Enhancing coordination with watershed groups and other community organizations to inform a broader set of the public about the CWP and encourage input and participation.”

The MCWC aims to reach the constituents of Western Garfield county, and those travelling through the region. This Center is in a centralized location, and is a logical way to educate and inform those about the issues within the river, our state, and the local watershed specifically.

Section 2.3, p 41 also mentions expanding K-12 water education opportunities.

“Enhancing K-12 water education opportunities, both inside and beyond the classroom. Programs established by the Roaring Fork Conservancy and the Keystone Science School provide models for potential initiatives throughout the basin.”

We intend for the Center to serve as a hub for environmental and water sciences in Western Garfield County. Because of our proximity to the Colorado River and an adjacent pond with a short walking trail, it provides good access for educating K-12 students on aquatic invertebrates, water-dependent wildlife, and native and invasive species.

Section 2.3, p 42 mentions reaching the public that doesn't have an intrinsic interest in water science and policy.

“Using film, radio, art and literature to engage people who don't have an intrinsic interest in water science and policy issues. Very popular presentations by photographer Peter McBride and author Kevin Fedarko, as well as the positive reception to a 30-minute documentary on the Grand Valley and its Rivers produced by the Water Center at Colorado Mesa University, demonstrate the potential of such efforts.”

The Center will be vital in reaching the public that doesn't otherwise have an affinity for water. It will provide accessible and engaging materials that can reach a wide audience.

Last Updated: July 2017

Water Project Justification

Development of the Center is inherently committed to collaboration. We will look to the Colorado River District, local stakeholders, local education leaders, and other partners to help shape the outreach materials and interpretive displays. The MCWC will partner with local schools, including Colorado Mountain College, to bring students interested in environmental science and water issues to the Center to learn more about the watershed and basin-wide issues.

The Center will address a need for education and outreach, one of the water gaps outlined in the BIP. This Center will serve as an educational and outreach hub for water issues in Western Garfield County.

After initial funding from the CWP for creating the space and providing programming for the initial year, the Interpretive Center will rely on MCWC staff, board members, volunteers and partner organizations to keep the materials up-to-date and engaging, and the programming relevant. This project is feasible for our organization and will be a great asset to the communities in Western Garfield County.

Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water project is complementary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

Last Updated: July 2017

Related Studies

The Middle Colorado Watershed Council is applying for a CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant in November of 2017 to support an initial phase of Integrated Water Management Planning. The Center will afford the opportunity to promote any work that is implemented pursuant to the management plan.

Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.

None awarded to date.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect your application.

None known.

Last Updated: July 2017

Submittal Checklist	
x	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract .
Exhibit A	
x	Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾
x	Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾ (<i>Spreadsheet</i>)
	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
	Map ⁽¹⁾
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
x	Letters of Support (Support letter from Basin Roundtable encouraged)
	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.)
x	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾
	W-9 ⁽²⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY	
x	Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application ⁽¹⁾

(1) Required with application.

(2) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval

Last Updated: July 5, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work	
Date:	October, 1 2017
Name of Applicant:	Middle Colorado Watershed Council
Name of Water Project:	Colorado River Interpretive Center
Funding Source:	Engagement & Innovation
<p>Water Project Overview: Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). The same summary can be used from Page 5 of the CWP Grant Application.</p> <p>The Middle Colorado Watershed Council (MCWC) is endeavoring to create a Colorado River Interpretive Center for educating the public on the Colorado River and its value to the residents of Colorado.</p> <p>The Colorado River Interpretive Center will engage the public, from school groups, to tourists, to local stakeholders along the Middle Colorado River. The Colorado River Interpretive Center will include themes and stories about the river, connect people emotionally to the river, and leave the visitors with new knowledge about the River and issues facing Colorado water.</p> <p>The CWP Funding will be put towards three tasks.</p> <p>Task 1: Audience definition and stakeholder engagement. This will involve key education specialists in the region in a design charrette process to identify the target audiences and determine a set of priority themes and messages for the Center.</p> <p>Task 2: Interpretive Material Creation and Design. This task will take the agreed upon educational themes, stories and messages and transform them into displays that work together functionally within the Center environment.</p> <p>Task 3: Interpretive Center Programming. The MCWC will work with local partners and schools to create special events and educational opportunities in conjunction with the Center.</p>	
<p>Objectives: List the objectives of the project.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define the target audiences and select appropriate educational themes. 2. Engage community educators as partners in development of the Center. 3. Design an appropriate presentation strategy Create and install displays. 4. Host community events at the Center 5. Pre and post visits with school groups 6. Maintain accessibility for the public 	



Last Updated: July 5, 2017

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each project task using the following format:
Task 1 – Audience Definition and Stakeholder Engagement
Description of Task: A consultant will be retained to assist with assembling and managing a community- driven stakeholder process to guide development of an initial set of educational materials and programs for the Center. Key community educators will be invited to participate in a design charrette style process to identify, prioritize and select a series of educational themes, messages, stories and programs that fulfill an agreed upon set of educational objectives. Existing information that will be used to inform the process include relevant excerpts from the CWP and Colorado River BIP, and public stakeholder survey results from the Colorado River BIP and needs for outreach and education outlined in the Middle Colorado Watershed Plan.
Method/Procedure: The MCWC will also work with local education partners including the Aspen Center for Environmental Science, Eagle River Watershed Council, Roaring Fork Conservancy, and the local school districts to highlight opportunities for fulfilling specific science education standards regarding water education.
Grantee Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task
CWCB Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
Task 2 – Interpretive Material Creation and Implementation
Description of Task: Utilizing the services of a consultant, the selected set of educational elements from Task 1 will be transformed from concepts into prototype two-dimensional, three- dimensional, and multimedia displays. Prototypes will be shared with the original stakeholder group for comment and consensus. A functional layout for the Center will be developed to illustrate the positioning and flow of the various elements. As necessary, specialty vendors will be used to develop and install final interpretive elements.
Method/Procedure:
Grantee Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task
CWCB Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task

Last Updated: July 5, 2017

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each project task using the following format:
Task 1 – Interpretive Center Programming
Description of Task:
The MCWC will use the Center as a place to host water education events, water tours, and water-related trainings. The MCWC Community Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for identifying and designing year-round programming in coordination with the MCWC Outreach and Education Committee and other local partners. This grant request seeks support for the planning of these events for a one-year period. In order to keep the Center accessible to the public, this grant request also seeks funding for a part-time docent for a one-year period.
Method/Procedure:
Grantee Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task
CWCB Deliverable: Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task

Budget and Schedule
This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format.

Reporting Requirements
<p>Progress Reports: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status 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. The CWCB may withhold reimbursement until satisfactory progress reports have been submitted.</p>
<p>Final Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarizes the project and how the project was completed. Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome. Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled. Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs. <p>The CWCB will withhold disbursement the last 10% of the budget until the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.</p>

Last Updated: July 5, 2017



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A Budget and Schedule

Date: 9/29/2017

Name of Applicant: Middle Colorado Watershed Council

Name of Water Project: Colorado River Interpretive Center

Task No.	Task Description	Start Date ⁽¹⁾	End Date	Water Project Funding Category	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Audience Definition and Stakeholder Engagement	March 15 2018	May-18	Engagement	\$ 1,800.00		\$1,800
2	Interpretive Material Creation and Installation	June 2018	November 2018	Engagement	\$23,900	\$13,000	\$36,900
3	Interpretive Center Programming	November 2018	November 2019	Engagement	\$21,700		\$21,700
4	Interpretive Center Space	March 15 2018	March 2021 - option to renew lease	Engagement			
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
							\$0
Total					\$47,400	\$13,000	\$60,400

(1) Start Date for funding under \$100K, minimum 45 Days from Board Approval; Start Date for funding over \$100K, minimum 90 Days from Board Approval.

·Round values up to the nearest hundred dollars.

·Reimbursement eligibility commences upon the grantee's receipt of a Notice to Proceed (NTP)

·NTP will not be accepted as a start date. Project activities may commence as soon as grantee enters contract and receives formal NTP if prior to the listed "Start

·The applicant shall provide a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of contract execution.

·CWCB will withhold disbursement of the last 10% of the total grant amount until a Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff (2017 CWP Grant

ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION GRANT FUND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

Introduction & Purpose

Colorado's Water Plan calls for an outreach, education, public engagement, and innovation grant fund in Chapter 9.5.

The overall goal of the Engagement & Innovation Grant Fund is to enhance Colorado's water communication, outreach, education, and public engagement efforts; advance Colorado's water supply planning process; and support a statewide water innovation ecosystem.

The grant fund aims to engage the public to promote well-informed community discourse regarding balanced water solutions statewide. The grant fund aims to support water innovation in Colorado. The grant fund prioritizes measuring and evaluating the success of programs, projects, and initiatives. The grant fund prioritizes efforts designed using research, data, and best practices. The grant fund prioritizes a commitment to collaboration and community engagement. The grant fund will support local and statewide efforts.

The grant fund is divided into two tracks: engagement and innovation. The Engagement Track supports education, outreach, communication, and public participation efforts related to water. The Innovation Track supports efforts that advance the water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

Application Questions

*The grant fund request is referred to as "project" in this application.

Overview (answer for both tracks)
<p>In a few sentences, what is the overall goal of this project? How does it achieve the stated purpose of this grant fund (above)?</p> <p>The Colorado River Interpretive Center (Center) will engage the public, from school groups to tourists, to local stakeholders along the Middle Colorado River. The Center will include themes and stories about the river, connect people emotionally to the river, and leave the visitors with new knowledge about the River and issues facing Colorado water.</p> <p>The Middle Colorado Watershed Council (MCWC) intends to use the six themes, and subsequent goals as outlined in the Colorado River Basin Implementation Plan (BIP), along with additional stakeholder, input to guide the design and focus of the Center.</p> <p>The Project will include three main tasks..</p> <p>Task 1: Audience definition and stakeholder engagement Much of what is included in the Colorado River BIP includes feedback from stakeholders and public groups in our region. These comments include ideas of how to engage and educate the public. The MCWC and partners will use this existing data in conjunction with additional stakeholder and educator meetings to best address water education needs.</p> <p>Task 2: Interpretive Material Creation and Implementation The MCWC and partners will use the Colorado River BIP and additional stakeholder feedback to create the interpretive center signs and displays. The stories will highlight the key points stakeholders feel is lacking in water education, as well as areas surrounding watershed management, water needs for consumptive and non-consumptive use, environmental needs, water quality issues, and next steps our audience can take for protecting water.</p>



Overview (answer for both tracks)

Task 3: Interpretive Center Programming

The MCWC will work with local partners to create outreach opportunities and special events to engage our audience in unique ways using the Center as a starting point. Outreach can include open-houses to bring local community members to the space, hosting school groups and adult groups and leading water tours of the area, mini-nature hikes around the ponds near the Center, hosting river guide trainings, and more. We look forward to monthly activities at the Center to actively engage and educate the community.

Who is/are the target audience(s)? How will you reach them? How will you involve the community?

The current space for the Center is at the Rifle Rest Area off of I-70. The natural audience for the space are travelers along the I-70 corridor. While the rest-area users are our natural audience, we expect our target audiences to be seasonal. The audience for the Center will be school groups and local community members in the fall, winter and spring. In the Summer, our target audience will be tourists and local river-users that use the rest area.

For Task 1, we will work with local community members, school educators, and community groups to address water education needs through a design charrette.

For Task 2, we will combine the information gathered and create displays to address our audience needs. As is common with Interpretive Displays, our material will be targeting youth and school students, but will serve to engage adults as well.

For Task 3, we will work with community partners to create special events for specific audiences. We will work with educators to develop engaging material for water-standards, we will work with local community groups to host informative speakers, and we will develop short, engaging events for those audience members who are just using the rest-area, yet want to learn something and stretch their legs.

Describe how the project is collaborative or engages a diverse group of stakeholders. Who are the partners in the project? Do you have other funding partners or sources?

For Task 1, to develop the Center, the MCWC intends to host educator-based stakeholder meetings, and reach out to local high schools and middle schools to understand what the public would like to see in the Center. The MCWC will also consult the Colorado River BIP and address the strategies outlined in the outreach and public education section.

For Task 2, the MCWC will work with experts in interpretive displays and design to create engaging material for children and adults alike. There are many different users of water, and our signs will represent each user in an unbiased and factual way.

For Task 3, the MCWC will endeavor to engage a diversity of stakeholders while operating the Center as a place for everyone to use. We hope that teachers will bring their students on educational trips, guiding companies will use the Center as a resource for fishing and river information, and community groups can use it as a place to gather more information on how to efficiently use and protect water.

Current partners include the City of Rifle, the Colorado Basin Roundtable, the Colorado River District and Garfield Healthy Communities to make this project a reality.

The MCWC has submitted funding requests to the Colorado Basin Roundtable PEPO Funds to help with this grant.

Describe how you plan to measure and evaluate the success and impact of the project?



Overview (answer for both tracks)

The MCWC will gather contact information from students and visitors of the Center, to the best of our ability. We intend to conduct a follow-up survey with those visitors either via mail, email, social media, or via our website. Another option we will explore is having the docent/knowledgeable person at the entrance/exit to the trails/displays soliciting input and reaction following the experience. The survey could inquire about a favorite display or something new learned, and will seek to determine whether the visitor thought about any new behavioral or attitudinal changes as a result of the information they received.

For school groups, we will follow-up with teachers and work with them on obtaining feedback from their students. It may be possible to schedule visits to the classrooms following their visit to the Center to answer any questions and continue to engage them about water issues and some of our other ongoing projects.

What research, evidence, and data support your project?

Based on the research, Interpretive Centers are effective if they have signs that include “take home messages for visitors (Marschall et al. 2017), have well thought out and coordinated pre and post-visit plans (Bueddefeld et al 2016), and have engaging event programming to supplement the interpretive signs and displays (Barrett et al 2017.)

Data generally supports interpretive centers as a way to engage the public, but the MCWC cannot be expected to merely put up the center and then rest on the signs to do the work. Instead, we expect the Center will supplement outreach efforts of the organization, as well as the already in-place outreach efforts of the Colorado Basin Roundtable and Colorado Water Plan.

The MCWC hopes to approach the project in three phases to best address our audience and our audience needs, create engaging materials for that audience, and design proper outreach efforts around the Center for its intended audience.

Barrett et al. 2017. “Predicting Intentions to return to a nature center after an interpretive special event.” *Journal of Interpretation Research*. Volume 22. No 1. Pg 33-51.

Bueddefeld et al. 2016. “Exploring the effect of zoo post-visit action resources on sustainable behavioral change.” *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*. Volume 25, Issue 9, pg 1205-1221.

Marschall et al. 2017. “Interpretation in Wildlife Tourism: Assessing the Effectiveness of Signage on Visitor behavior at a seal watching site in Iceland.” *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*. Volume 17. Pg 11-19.

Describe potential short- and long-term challenges with this project.

Short term challenges the MCWC will face will be narrowing our focus down to just a few key themes and topics for the Center. The MCWC wants the Center to be engaging and educational, but not overwhelming.

A long term challenge the MCWC may face is maintaining relevance after a few years. Water issues are constantly in flux and changing, and the MCWC anticipates an ongoing effort to keep up with new developments. We will look to the Colorado River Basin Roundtable and other partners such as Aspen Center for Environmental Science, Roaring Fork Conservancy, and the Eagle River Watershed Council to help keep our material and outreach efforts fresh and engaging.

Please fill out the applicable questions for either the Engagement Track or Innovation Track, unless your project contains elements in both tracks. If a question does not relate to your project, just leave it blank. Please answer each question that relates to your project. Please reference the

relevant documents and use chapters and page numbers (Colorado's Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plan, PEPO Education Action Plan, etc.).

Engagement Track
<p>Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement measurable objective set forth in Colorado's Water Plan to "significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide by 2020, as determined by water awareness surveys."</p> <p>We intend to use the Colorado Water Plan and input from stakeholders to develop our interpretive sign themes and topics. We will work with consultants to make the displays engaging and creative, and will follow-up with our visitors to understand what their take-aways were and direct them to areas to learn more about our water issues throughout the state, especially along the Colorado River.</p> <p>We will also ask for suggestions regarding needs for improvement or expansion of what we are offering; then we will revisit these suggestions to see if they are appropriate for implementation. One important aspect of this project is the coordination with CDOT and the Town of Rifle to provide additional signage on I-70 approaching the exit as well as periodically from Glenwood to DeBeque, at the exit ramps and throughout the town and roads leading into Rifle.</p>
<p>Describe how the project achieves the other measurable objectives and critical goals and actions laid out in Colorado's Water Plan around the supply and demand gap; conservation; land use; agriculture; storage; watershed health, environment, and recreation; funding; and additional.</p> <p>The Center will use the Colorado Water Plan and the Colorado River BIP along with the goals of the Middle Colorado Watershed Plan as blueprints for designing the interpretive displays.</p> <p>The shared goals of the Plans, and subsequent surveys from the Water Plan and the BIP will guide our local stakeholder and community meetings to generate input on the Center.</p>
<p>Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement goals set forth in the applicable Basin Implementation Plan(s).</p> <p>The Colorado River BIP outlines key areas and themes about water issues and the importance that the public be well informed and educated on water issues. The six key basin-wide themes that were highlighted include: Protect and Restore Healthy Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Riparian Areas, Encourage a High Level of Basin Wide Conservation, Sustain Agriculture, Develop Local Water Conscious Land Use Strategies, Secure Safe Drinking, Assure Dependable Basin Administration.</p> <p>Where appropriate, we hope to incorporate these themes in the Center displays. Easy fits include Protect and Restore Healthy Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Riparian Areas, and Encourage a High Level of Basin Wide Conservation. The MCWC intends to use stakeholder input, community support, and specialty consultants to be creative in incorporating the other themes into the Center.</p> <p>One of the key conditions for addressing future water needs, as answered through a survey response in the Colorado River BIP, was a need for "more education." The Center will provide an educational venue for kids, parents, students, teachers, tourists, locals and our watershed stakeholders.</p>
<p>Describe how the project achieves the basin roundtable's PEPO Education Action Plans.</p> <p>The Colorado Basin Roundtable's PEPO Education Action Plans are focused on outreach to the public in our area. This Center will be a central hub for water education along the Middle Colorado River. The Upper Colorado River, Eagle River, and Grand Valley have outreach and interpretive centers, but the Middle Colorado River is lacking in a central hub for public outreach. The Interpretive Center will address that need.</p>

Innovation Track
Describe how the project enhances water innovation efforts and supports a water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.
Describe how the project engages/leverages Colorado's innovation community to help solve our state's water challenges.
Describe how the project helps advance or develop a solution to a water need identified through TAP-IN and other water innovation challenges. What is the problem/need/challenge?
Describe how this project impacts current or emerging trends; technologies; clusters, sectors, or groups in water innovation.