

**Water Supply Reserve Fund  
Water Activity Summary Sheet  
March 21-22, 2018  
Agenda Item 25(x)**

**Applicant & Grantee:** Mineral County Fairgrounds Association

**Water Activity Name:** Development of Irrigation Water Right

**Water Activity Purpose:** Environmental & Recreational Implementation

**County:** Mineral

**Drainage Basin:** Rio Grande

**Water Source:** Willow Creek

**Amount Requested:** \$9,190 Rio Grande Basin Account

**Matching Funds:** Applicant Match (cash & in-kind) = \$1,500

- 16% of the basin request (*Does not meet 25% min. Please see eligibility requirements on page 2 of this summary*)
- 14% of the total project cost of \$10,690

<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$9,190 from the Rio Grande Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Development of Irrigation Water Right.

**Water Activity Summary:** WSRF grant funds, if approved, will assist Mineral County Fairgrounds Association (MCFA) to resume use of the Mineral Park Ranch Ditch (1.2cfs) and isolate irrigation water from contacting contaminated sediments still in residence under a recently capped and reclaimed project area. Lower Willow Creek land area (below Creede) contains significant mining waste that has been mitigated by the Lower Willow Creek Restoration Company in cooperation with the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee, State Health Department, and the City of Creede. MCFA identified a need to construct 1,165 feet of pipeline to isolate irrigation water from Willow Creek through the newly constructed head gate, transporting it safely through approximately 1,600 feet of soil contaminated with waste from historic mining activity. The pipeline, designed and engineered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, is the most cost effective way to move water through this area.

This irrigation water will be outletted, 1 mile south of the inlet, where an irrigation structure will be placed, into a 10 acre native grassland on Mineral County Fairground's property. The water will improve the density of native grasses, potential erosion will be abated, and the need for mechanical and chemical weed control will be greatly reduced. Improved ground cover in the native grasslands will also enhance recreational activities such as hiking, biking and bird watching, and increase the feed available to deer and elk during the critical winter months.

**Discussion:** As described in the Rio Grande Roundtable chair's recommendation letter, this project was supported and recommended for approval on November 14, 2017. This project assists in satisfying Colorado's Water Plan Critical Goals and Actions as identified in Chapter 10.3, *F. Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation*, through multiple benefits including water quality improvements, the preservation and restoration of ecosystem function on 10 acres of critical winter habitat, and the preservation of historic water rights.

The Mineral Park Ranch Ditch was constructed in 1896 and adjudicated in 1903. This project will help protect and preserve a historic water right and will contribute to fully utilizing Colorado's compact entitlements. When in priority, this ditch irrigates native plants and grasses on land owned by MCFA and lying within the area identified by Colorado Division of Parks and Recreation as being "Critical Winter Habitat" for deer and elk. By maintaining and improving the vegetation on the irrigated land, additional environmental benefit comes from prevention of erosion and proliferation of noxious weeds. The MCFA provides recreational opportunities to area residents and visitors which contribute to local economies. Keeping the vegetation thriving improves the quality of recreational activities.

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

**Eligibility Requirements:** The application *does not* meet the eligibility component of match requirements (25% of basin request must be met by applicant match funds, either cash, in-kind, or both). This issue came up at the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable meeting in October 2017. Based on discussion, without significant roundtable support (86% of project costs) the Mineral County Fairgrounds Association would not be able to pursue this small water project (\$10,690), as such, the Rio BRT recommends that the CWCB waive the 25% match requirement.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Staff has determined this activity satisfies the Evaluation Criteria.

**Funding Summary / Matching Funds:**

<b><u>Funding Source</u></b>	<b><u>Cash</u></b>	<b><u>In-Kind</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Mineral County Fairgrounds Association	\$300	\$0	\$300
Mike Dill (Personal Tractor)	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
WSRF Rio Grande Basin Account	\$9,190	n/a	\$9,190
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$9,490</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>	<b>\$10,690</b>

**CWCB Project Manager:** Megan Holcomb

,RIO GRANDE BASIN ROUND TABLE

Support Letter for the Mineral County Fairground Association

Mineral Park Ranch Ditch Pipeline Project

CWCB Board,

On November 14, 2017, The Mineral County Fairgrounds Association, (MCFA), made the final presentation to the Rio Grande Basin Round Table, (RGBRT), at a regular monthly meeting. There was good discussion and no objections. The Pipeline Project was approved unanimously.

The presentation identified that the need for the pipeline arose from a recently completed reclamation and stream channel restoration effort performed by the Lower Willow Creek Restoration Company in cooperation with the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee, (WCRC). During the stream channel reconstruction a new head gate was constructed at the point of diversion for the Mineral Park Ranch Ditch which is now owned and operated by the MCFA. From the head gate the ditch runs through approximately 1,600' soil contaminated with waste from historic mining activity and has now been isolated and capped with clean material. The most cost effective way to move irrigation water through this area and prevent contact with contaminated sediments is through a pipeline. The pipeline was designed and engineered by personnel on staff with the NRCS.

The Mineral Park Ranch Ditch was constructed in 1896 and adjudicated in 1903. This project will help protect and preserve a historic water right and will contribute to fully utilizing Colorado's compact entitlements. At the same time there are multiple benefits from improvement to water Quality and improvement to the environment. When in priority this ditch irrigates native plants and grasses on land owned by MCFA and lying within the area identified by Colorado Division of Parks and Recreation as being "Critical Winter Habitat" for deer and elk. By maintaining and improving the vegetation on the irrigated land additional environmental benefit comes from prevention of erosion and proliferation of noxious weeds. Since some of the water soaks into the ground and finds its way to the river later in the year it helps support ecological function of the river within the context of existing water rights.

The MCFA provides recreational opportunities to area residents and visitors which contribute to local economies. Keeping the vegetation thriving improves the quality of recreational activities.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Nathan Coombs*

Chair- Rio Grande Basin Round Table

## **Letter of Financial Commitment**

The Mineral County Fairgrounds Association, (MCFA), is fully committed to provide the cash and in-kind match as indicated in the attached budget and supporting documentation. In addition the MCFA is prepared to provide any additional resources that may arise from unanticipated costs to insure the project is completed.

(Electronically signed)

Susan Birdsey, Secretary of the Board of Directors MCFA



Last Update: May 19, 2017

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application

#### Instructions

All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current [2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#).

To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be approved by a Roundtable(s) **AND** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for Roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly according to the schedule on page 2 of this application.

If you have questions, please contact the current CWCB staff Roundtable liaison:

#### Arkansas

Ben Wade  
[ben.wade@state.co.us](mailto:ben.wade@state.co.us)  
303-866-3441 x3238

#### Gunnison | North Platte | South Platte | Yampa/White

Craig Godbout  
[craig.godbout@state.co.us](mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us)  
303-866-3441 x3210

#### Colorado | Metro | Rio Grande | Southwest

Megan Holcomb  
[megan.holcomb@state.co.us](mailto:megan.holcomb@state.co.us)  
303-866-3441 x3222

#### WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)

	I acknowledge this request for funding was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring Basin Roundtable(s).
	I acknowledge I have read and understand the <a href="#">2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines</a> .
	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the <a href="#">Standard Contract</a> . <sup>(1)</sup>
Exhibit A	
	<a href="#">Statement of Work</a> <sup>(2)</sup> (Word – see Exhibit A Template)
	<a href="#">Budget &amp; Schedule</a> <sup>(2)</sup> (Excel Spreadsheet – see Exhibit A Template)
	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Commitments <sup>(2)</sup>
Exhibit C	
	Map <sup>(2)</sup>
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
	Letters of Support
	Certificate of Insurance <sup>(3)</sup> (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.)
Contracting Documents	
	Certificate of Good Standing <sup>(3)</sup>
	W-9 <sup>(3)</sup>
	Independent Contractor Form <sup>(3)</sup> (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form <sup>(3)</sup>

(1) Click "Grant Agreements". For reference only/do not fill out or submit/required for contracting

(2) Required with application if applicable.

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



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Schedule		
CWCB Meeting	Application Submittal Dates	Type of Request
January	December 1	Basin Account; BIP
March	February 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
May	April 1	Basin Account; BIP
July	June 1	Basin Account; BIP
September	August 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
November	October 1	Basin Account/BIP

Desired Timeline	
Desired CWCB Hearing Month:	March
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	April 15, 2018

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	Mineral County Fairgrounds Association	
Name of Water Activity	Development of Irrigation Water Right	
Approving Roundtable(s)		Basin Account Request(s) <sup>(1)</sup>
Rio Grande Basin		
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$9,190
Statewide Account Request <sup>(1)</sup>		\$0
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)		\$9,190
Total Project Costs		\$10,690

(1) Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)

## Grantee and Applicant Information



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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Mineral County Fairgrounds Association
Mailing Address	PO Box 61, Creede, CO 81130
FEIN	31-1820148
Grantee's Organization Contact <sup>(1)</sup>	James Mietz
Position/Title	Vice-president
Email	jdmietz@gmail.com
Phone	719-588-1308
Grant Management Contact <sup>(2)</sup>	Susan Birdsey
Position/Title	Secretary/Interim Director
Email	sbirdsey@msn.com
Phone	970-309-1587
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

(1) Person with signatory authority

(2) Person responsible for creating reimbursement invoices (Invoice for Services) and corresponding with CWCB staff.

Description of Grantee
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
Mineral County Fairgrounds Association, (MCFA), provides vibrant educational, cultural and recreational activities that enrich the lives of Creede and SLV region residents and visitors.

Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	<b>Public (Government):</b> 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.
	<b>Public (Districts):</b> authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises
	<b>Private Incorporated:</b> mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations
	<b>Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors:</b> are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
x	<b>Non-governmental organizations:</b> broadly, any organization that is not part of the government



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### Type of Eligible Entity (check one)

	<b>Covered Entity:</b> as defined in <a href="#">Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes</a>
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### Type of Water Activity (check one)

	Study
x	Implementation

### Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)

x	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
x	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
x	Agricultural	
	Municipal/Industrial	
	Needs Assessment	
	Education & Outreach	
	Other	Explain:

### Location of Water Activity

Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in **decimal degrees**. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.

County/Countries	Mineral County
Latitude	37-49-19 N
Longitude	106-55-47 W

### Water Activity Overview

Please provide a summary of the proposed water activity (200 words or less). Include a description of the activity and what the WSRF funding will be used for specifically (e.g. studies, permitting, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the activity. 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, area of habitat improvements. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule.





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### Water Activity Overview

This water activity meets environmental, recreational and agricultural needs. Lower Willow Creek land area (below Creede) contains significant mining waste that has been mitigated by the Lower Willow Creek Restoration Company in cooperation with the WCRC, State Health Dept. and the City of Creede. By inletting irrigation water from Willow Creek (Mineral Park Ranch D, 1.2cfs) through the newly constructed head gate, and piping it 1165' through the contaminated area to a safe outlet into the established ditch, the irrigation water can be isolated from contact with contaminated sediments without disrupting the work that was done to mitigate and restore. This water will be outletted, 1 mile south of inlet where an irrigation structure will be placed, into a native grassland on Fairgrounds property. The vegetation in the Fairgrounds 10 acre grassland will be enhanced by applying water in a timely manner. Other grassland areas on the property will be improved with water application. By improving the density of the native grasses, potential erosion will be abated and the need for mechanical and chemical weed control will be greatly reduced.

Improved ground cover in the native grassland will enhance recreational activities such as hiking, biking and bird watching, and will increase the feed available to deer and elk during the critical winter months.

### Measurable Results

To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.

	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)	
Evaporation loss reduced	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
10 acres	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
Historic ditch preserved	Other	Without this 1,165' of pipe the water right may face abandonment.

### Water Activity Justification

Provide a description of how this water activity supports the goals of [Colorado's Water Plan](#), the most recent [Statewide Water Supply Initiative](#), and the respective [Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan](#) <sup>(1)</sup>. 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).



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## Water Activity Justification

For applications that include a request for funds from the Statewide Account, the proposed water activity shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan criteria for state support (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;) (Also listed pp. 4-5 in [2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#)).

1. Protect, preserve, and/or restore the sustainability

of the Rio Grande Basin watersheds by focusing on watershed health and ecosystem function.

Ag M7I Env&Rec W

2. Protect and preserve the doctrine of prior and vested water rights,

and fully utilize Colorado's compact entitlements as

specified under the Rio Grande and Costilla Creek

compacts. Ag M&I Env&Rec W

4. Operate, maintain, rehabilitate, and create necessary infrastructure

to meet the Basin's long-term water needs, including

storage. Ag M&I Env&Rec W

6. Support the development of projects and methods that have multiple

benefits for agricultural, municipal and industrial, and

environmental and recreational water needs. Ag M&I Env&Rec W

7. Meet new demands for water, to the extent practicable, without

impacting existing water rights and compact obligations. Ag M&I Env&Rec W

9. Make progress toward meeting applicable water quality standards throughout the Basin.

10. Promote water management and administration practices that

are adaptive, flexible and responsible to optimize multiple benefits.

13. Work to sustain active river flows throughout the year in cooperation with

water users and administrators to restore and sustain ecological

function of the rivers and floodplain habitats within the context

of existing water rights and compact obligations. Ag M&I Env&Rec W

14. Maintain and enhance water-dependent recreational activities. M&I Env&Rec W

(1) Access Basin Implementation Plans or Education Action Plans from Basin drop down menu.



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### Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests

**Basin (only) Account** grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3<sup>rd</sup> party and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment** as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines (submitted on the contributing entity's letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind)
Mineral County Fairgrounds Association	\$300.00 cash
Mike Dill, Personal tractor	\$1,200.00 in-kind
Total Match	\$1,500.00
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	

### Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests

**Statewide Account** grant requests require a 50% match as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. A minimum of 10% match shall be from Basin Account funds (cash only). A minimum of 10% match shall be provided by the applicant or 3<sup>rd</sup> party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3<sup>rd</sup> party) and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment**. Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
Total Match	\$
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	



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### Related Studies

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

### Previous CWCB Grants

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

### Tax Payer Bill of Rights

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.

None known.